

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF TROOP 1 CONIMICUT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, this Sunday, February 21, 2021, marks the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 1 Conimicut, the oldest scout troop in my hometown of Warwick, Rhode Island. Over the past century, Troop 1 Conimicut has served its community, fostered lifelong friendships, and helped its members grow into confident and upstanding citizens.

On February 21, 1921, three adults and five young men founded Troop 1 Conimicut at the Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church in Warwick. The Troop quickly grew, so much so that by the 1930s, it was the second largest in the Narragansett Council. By the 1950s, Troop 1 Conimicut had more than 150 scouts, and in 1952, produced its first Eagle Scout, Mr. Robert L. Richardson, who remains the namesake of one of the Troop's most distinguished awards. By the early 1970s, the Troop reached another milestone when Mr. Alan J. Whittaker, a Troop 1 Conimicut Eagle Scout, became its first "homegrown" scoutmaster. Mr. Whittaker's passion for the Troop is evident from his continued involvement to this day.

Throughout its century of existence, Troop 1 Conimicut has engaged in many meaningful service projects. Some notable examples include collecting food for the Rhode Island Food Bank and other pantries, compiling toiletry kits for homeless veterans, and packing backpacks with supplies to distribute to foster families. Scouts have also refurbished Warwick's Sand Pond Trail, repaired the band room at Pilgrim High School, and constructed a fire pit to properly retire American flags at a local American Legion Post.

Today, Troop 1 Conimicut continues to meet weekly at the Woodbury Union Church and remains an organization committed to mentorship, service, and growth. I congratulate Troop 1 Conimicut of Warwick on its centennial and commend its positive contributions to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS YODER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of the Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Thomas Yoder on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough's newlyformed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless

of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Yoder in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Yoder for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. ANDREW "DREW" DEGRAFFENREIDT III

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Andrew DeGraffenreidt III. Andrew was the perfect embodiment of the saying: "find something you love, and you will never work a day of your life", as he continued to passionately study and practice law until the very end with the sole motivation to help others. As a devoted lawyer he tirelessly worked to assist others and his community. We have lost a great leader, a loving father, and a dear friend.

Andrew dedicated his life to mastering law and guiding young professionals in the legal community. He touched many lives during his extensive and successful legal career that spanned over 43 years until his untimely passing. Andrew was deeply committed to his community and his legal career, and like so many incredible individuals, his story had humble beginnings. Andrew's first job after graduating from the University of Miami Law School was serving as a Research Aide for General Counsel of Broward County, Florida. He then served as Deputy City Attorney for the city of Hollywood, Florida, and later became the city of Hollywood's first African American City Attorney. Additionally, during his successful career Andrew practiced private law where he led his own law firm twice. Furthermore, his extensive litigation experience in civil law set him apart from other attorneys, and his wealth of knowledge ultimately led him to serve as City Attorney of Riviera Beach, Florida, a position he valiantly held until 2019.

From 2019 to the present, Andrew spent his time handling select cases, and serving as an insightful and experienced mentor to young lawyers. He truly embodied the ethos of a "life-long learner" and continued to serve his community to the end.

To Andrew, family, faith, and love was of the utmost importance. As a member of Christ Family Worship Assembly his love for others was magnified through his commitment to God. He was most notably the devoted husband of Mary Sheely DeGraffenreidt and the proud father of seven children: Tatanisha, Reghan, Shaundelyn, Kayla, Farren, Douglas, and Andrew IV.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Andrew DeGraffenreidt III has indeed left an indelible mark on his loved ones, his community, and will be a role model for future generations to come. He will be dearly missed.

CELEBRATING THE ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the admission of the late R.R. Reynolds of Crossett and Joe Don Greenwood of Hermitage to the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. These two Fourth District citizens are listed among those who have exemplified leadership and service to our state's agriculture industry.

As director of the Crossett Experimental Forest until 1969, the late R.R. Reynolds became one of the leading voices in modern, sustainable forest management. He maintained a commitment to proper agriculture education with membership in the Society of American Foresters, and he led the effort to create the forestry degree program at what is now University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Joe Don Greenwood, a 40-year veteran of agriculture education in Arkansas schools, led students to 41 state championships and 8 national championships in Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and Forestry. He also worked in tomato farming and served on various agricultural advisory boards, proving his commitment to agricultural excellence in all areas of life.

As an agricultural engineer and the only professional forester in Congress, I can attest to the significant investments these two men have made in Arkansas agriculture. Not only do their contributions have a positive impact upon our state's economic health, but their commitment to developing innovative agricultural practices has and will continue to have a lasting effect on our future.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM EARL STONE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of William Earl Stone who passed away on February 3, 2021. Earl was a fixture in his community and will be deeply missed.

Earl was born to Lela Bell Stone on March 30, 1937. He graduated from Guntown High School in 1957 where he and Elaine Cook served as Vice President and President, respectively. He worked at Toms Drugstore,

• 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.

where he perfected his milkshake recipe. He began his career in road construction at Boyer, Johnson and Kimes. He eventually became a partner and then sole owner of the company. He served until his death as president and board member of the Mississippi Road Builders Association.

Earl went on to marry his class president, Elaine. The two spent 59 years together and had three children. The family were members of Friendship Baptist Church where Earl served as Church Clerk, Assistant Moderator, choir member and served on many committees. He was committed to the revitalization of downtown Baldwin and was very connected to his family.

Earl Stone was an outstanding Mississippian and a man dedicated to his family and faith. He will be deeply missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMANCIPATION STATUE REMOVAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Emancipation Statue Removal Act, the first in a series of statue and memorial removal bills I will introduce during Black History Month. The bill would remove the Emancipation Statue from Lincoln Park, a federal park in the District of Columbia, and require the Secretary of the Interior to donate the statue to a museum or a similar entity.

The Emancipation Statue was dedicated on April 14, 1876, the 11th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Although formerly enslaved Americans paid for this statue, it was designed and sculpted without their input, and it shows. The paternalistic statue depicting a Black man on his knees in front of President Lincoln fails to recognize African Americans' agency in pressing for their own emancipation.

Understandably, recently liberated African Americans during the Reconstruction era were grateful for any recognition of their freedom in a country where they still experienced virtually total exclusion from American life. However, even at the time of its unveiling, prominent Black Americans expressed their displeasure with the statue's design, including Frederick Douglass. During his keynote address at the statue's unveiling, Frederick Douglass pointedly did not praise the statue. Rather, in a letter to the editor of the National Republican a few days after the unveiling, Douglass expressed his dismay at the statue: "The negro here, though rising, is still on his knees and nude. What I want to see before I die is a monument representing the negro, not couchant on his knees like a four-footed animal, but erect on his feet like a man."

At the end of last year, Boston removed its replica of the statue and plans to place it in a publicly accessible location where it can be better contextualized. It is time for Congress to place the original statue in a museum, too.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.
CHRISTINE OLDHAM

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Christine Oldham, Superintendent of the Ligonier Valley School District, on her retirement.

Dr. Oldham began her educational career as an elementary school teacher in 1988 in Camden, Delaware. She then served as an assistant principal at Westside Elementary School in the Greater Johnstown School District and as a principal in the Conemaugh Township School District. Before joining the Ligonier Valley School District, she served as the Superintendent of the Ferndale Area School District for five years.

At the Ligonier Valley School District, Dr. Oldham has been recognized for her leadership on key initiatives and projects. In accordance with recent educational research, she introduced a new, customized learning approach that allows students to proceed at their own pace while being supported by a teacher or learning coach. In 2008, she also oversaw the successful merger with the Laurel Valley Middle/High School.

Dr. Oldham earned a bachelor's degree from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from Delaware State University, and a doctorate degree from Wilmington College. As she retires on June 30, 2021, Dr. Oldham will mark 13 years of service to Ligonier Valley students, teachers, staff, and families. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I thank Dr. Oldham for her steadfast service to our community. As Dr. Oldham embarks on the next chapter of her life, I wish her every continued happiness.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 2021

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the cultural and historical significance of International Mother Language Day. Established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999, International Mother Language Day raises awareness of linguistic diversity and multilingualism. Every year since I have been a Member of Congress, I have introduced legislation to recognize the significance of International Mother Language Day.

International Mother Language Day is celebrated around the world on February 21st and holds special importance for the Bangladeshi American community. On February 21, 1952 Bangladeshi students died while demonstrating for recognition of Bengali as a national language of Pakistan. International Mother Language Day is an important day to commemorate those who have fought for the right for their language to be recognized.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a diverse and rich linguistic and cultural heritage. The Census Bureau reports there are

over 300 spoken languages in the United States, 169 of these are native languages. According to UNESCO, 145 languages in the United States are classified as "endangered."

Preserving existing languages is an essential component of preserving our rich and diverse heritage.

Madam Speaker, I believe we must continue to promote linguistic diversity and linguistic education in our country. We cannot allow the 145 endangered languages in our nation to become extinct. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATING HERMAN AND BOBBIE GOLDBERGER FOR THEIR STEWARDSHIP OF THE HEBREW WATCHMAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Herman and Bobbie Goldberger on their retirement. Their family-owned labor of love, The Hebrew Watchman, has been a cornerstone of the Jewish community in Memphis for 95 years. Founded in 1925 as The Memphis Watchman by Leo I. Goldberger, Herman's father, it has chronicled Memphis Jewish life with grace and devotion for generations. I am very pleased to see that Jewish Living of the South Inc., and Jewish Scene Magazine editor and publisher Susan C. Nieman, have acquired this important and beloved cultural institution and have pledged to keep it going for another 95 years. I want to thank Herman and Bobbie Goldberger for their stewardship of The Hebrew Watchman and wish them well in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE JAMES KERSTEN'S YEARS OF SERVICE TO 33RD DISTRICT COURT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge James Kersten on the occasion of his retirement after serving nearly 25 years as the 33rd District Judge in Woodhaven, Michigan. His contributions to the community are worthy of commendation.

Judge Kersten grew up in Trenton, graduating from Trenton High School. In 1977, Judge Kersten graduated from Michigan State University and in 1980 he earned his law degree from the Detroit College of Law. Judge Kersten started his career as an attorney in Flat Rock where he represented local families and businesses. Later, he served as a Wayne County mediator and arbitrator for 10 years and eventually, Judge Kersten was elected to serve as the 33rd District judge following in the footsteps of his father, Judge Kurt Kersten.

During his time as a Judge, he encouraged people in trouble to use that experience and make a positive change in their lives and was known for his skillful mediation of long standing civil disputes.

Beyond his work in the judiciary, he is an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

the Elks Club of Flat Rock, Flat Rock Rotary, and Downriver youth sports. He has demonstrated his commitment to the entire Michigan community, and it is my honor and privilege to recognize his distinguished work today.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Honorable James Kersten for an exemplary career in public service. He has effectively served Woodhaven and the state of Michigan in his role as the 33rd District Judge through his selflessness and dedication to the community. I join with Judge James' family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PATRICK DRAGON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of dedicated and heroic public servant, Patrick Dragon, of Brooklyn, Connecticut. Mr. Dragon passed, at only age 50, on January 2, 2021, after a courageous battle with coronavirus.

A lifelong resident of Brooklyn, Connecticut, Patrick was drawn to serve his community through public safety. Entering public service at early age, he began as an Emergency Medical Technician and then joined the 107th Training Troop of the Connecticut State Police. Upon graduation in January 1998, Patrick returned to his local community serving as a Patrol Trooper at Troop D in nearby Danielson, then as the Resident State Trooper in Sterling, and a Major Crime Unit Detective. Always wanting to do more, he also became a certified Fire Investigator/Fire Marshal with the State Police's Fire & Explosion Unit. It was through this assignment that Patrick acted as first responder to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.

That horrific day transformed the lives of many Americans, including Mr. Dragon's. In the years following the tragedy, he found healing through service to a new community—his peers in law enforcement through the Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program (VALEAP). This unique peer-led program brought together law enforcement professionals who have experienced unbelievable traumas while on duty. Patrick sincerely committed himself to this program, serving as a peer leader and mentor, working with over 250 emotionally and physically traumatized law enforcement professionals from around the country. VALEAP administrators commended Mr. Dragon for his service and have noted that his passing will leave an "immeasurable void" within the program.

Although he had overcome immeasurable challenges—Patrick's motivation for service to his community never wavered. Upon retirement from the State Police in 2018 he transitioned into a new role as an emergency dispatcher with the Foster Police Department in the neighboring State of Rhode Island. Amazingly, during that entire 34 years of police work he was also a dedicated member of the East Brooklyn Fire Department, serving most recently as deputy chief.

Mr. Dragon's loss leaves a deep void from Eastern Connecticut all the way to Virginia

and beyond. His dedication to both local community and fellow officer has made the State of Connecticut more safe and his workforce more whole.

Madam Speaker, knowing of Patrick Dragon's selfless service and how he has responded to unimaginable tragedy, it is objective to state his work represents the best of law enforcement. I hope the chamber will join me in expressing the deepest condolences on behalf of the House of Representatives to the Dragon family—his parents Robert and Ann Marie; older sister Michele Hearn and younger brother Jason Dragon. I hope this testament to Patrick's life serves as an acknowledgement of the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed to him by the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEDFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER ALAN FREDERICK

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate new Bedford County Commissioner Alan Frederick of Rainsburg, Pennsylvania on his appointment for this role, in which he is slated to serve through 2023.

Commissioner Frederick has been a resident of Bedford County since 1952. He has worked on his family farm for his entire life as a dairy and grain farmer. Commissioner Frederick also has also served on the boards of several economic and community organizations. Prior to his selection as Commissioner, he had served as a board member of the Bedford County Development Association for 11 years, including one year as chairman. He also has served as a board member for the Bedford Farm Bureau Co-Op for 10 years, including four years as president. Additionally, he served as a board member for the Pennsylvania Beef Council for six years, including one year as chairman. In recognition of this service, he received the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2008.

As Commissioner Frederick begins his tenure on the Bedford County Board of Commissioners, I thank him for his willingness to serve our region and wish him the best in this endeavor.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF, "BOE" FONTAINE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Former Jefferson County Sheriff Edward Lewis "Boe" Fontaine. Sheriff Fontaine passed away on Sunday, January 17 following a battle with COVID-19, leaving behind a county and Fourth District which mourns the loss of a friend, a helper, and a true servant leader.

Beginning his law enforcement career as a deputy sheriff assigned to the Uniformed Pa-

trol Division in 1980, he was later elected as the 30th Jefferson County Sheriff, serving two terms from 1999 to 2006. Appointed by then Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee in 2001, Sheriff Fontaine served as a Commissioner on the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST). Prior to his service at home, Sheriff Fontaine served 21 years in the United States Marine Corps, retiring as a gunnery sergeant. For his heroism in action, he became one of the most decorated Arkansan service members in history. Most notable of those awards include four Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star with a combat "V."

In addition to his life of leadership in the military and in local law enforcement, Sheriff Fontaine was known as a family man and valuable member of the community, along with his wife of 60 years, Maye Winston Fontaine. Together, they raised a daughter, Kim, and worshipped as members of Bethany Missionary Baptist Church.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Sheriff "Boe" Fontaine. I thank him and his family for their dedication to our fellow citizens and our beloved Fourth District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution with my colleagues, Representatives GREGORY MEEKS, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, GWEN MOORE, and BOBBY RUSH to introduce the African Descent Affairs Act. As we celebrate Black History Month and continue to highlight the International Decade for People of African Descent, we have seen a sharp increase in racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and other forms of prejudice and discrimination across the globe. Global racial justice movements in response to the tragic death of George Floyd have not only drawn attention to the problem, but also to opportunities to join international efforts to develop and implement global and national solutions.

To aid these efforts, I have introduced the African Descent Affairs Act to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world by establishing, within the United States State Department, a Global Office of African Descent Affairs. In addition to developing global foreign policy and assistance strategies for people of African descent, the bill would also create a "Fund" to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent led civil society organizations; require Annual State Department Human Rights Reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent; and create similar initiatives at the United States Agency for International Development that would work in partnership with the State Department.

U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally and would greatly assist in responding to increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe. The State Department has already launched many successful

initiatives that have aided specific and vulnerable populations, such as the Office of Global Women's Issues, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism—now an Ambassadorship, and special initiatives and funds focused on disability, LGBTQ+ and other communities.

I am greatly encouraged by recent Executive Orders from President Biden focused on equity and justice in this country and see the adoption of the African Descent Affairs Act as complementary to these domestic actions. Implemented together, these actions could facilitate the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world. I urge you to join me in supporting this bill.

IN MEMORY OF HUEY CLIFTON
MCLEAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for Huey Clifton McLean.

HUEY CLIFTON MCLEAN

Huey Clifton McLean, 69, of Lexington passed away Wednesday, November 4, 2020. He was born to the late Pete Monroe and Glennie Mae McLean.

Huey proudly served in the United States Army during Vietnam. He retired his military career with the South Carolina National Guard.

Surviving are his wife, Rebekah McLean; son, Michael (Jennifer) McLean; daughter, Kelly (Keith) Veidt; and grandchildren, Ryan (Emma) Veidt, Reilly Veidt, Kenlee McLean and Adam McLean. He is also survived by his sister, Patricia McLean Parrish and predeceased in death by his brother, Wallace Monroe McLean.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF AUTO-
MOTIVE COLOR & SUPPLY CORP.

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate northeast Indiana-based automotive and industrial paint supplier and distributor Automotive Color & Supply Corporation for 70 years of business.

Richard Byers, Sr., acquired part ownership of the company and began to operate the business shortly after its founding in 1951. Richard attained full ownership of the company in 1970, and the Byers family has owned and operated Automotive Color as a family business since.

Automotive Color has established itself as one of the leading automotive and industrial paint and supply distributors not just in the Midwest but throughout the United States. Paint from Automotive Color is used on race cars, commercial and private aircraft, spacecraft, ocean vessels, movies and TV show sets, and more.

At a time when American industry is in convalescence from the coronavirus pandemic, this historic milestone is even more extraordinary.

Hoosiers are thankful for and proud of Automotive Colors' contributions to northeast Indiana and the country. This record is testament to the exceptional service and quality they have provided, and will continue to provide, for generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANTHONY
BULLET

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Anthony Bullet on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough's newly-formed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Bullet in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Bullet for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

JOE "VAL" VALENTIN VIGIL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe "Val" Valentin Vigil of Thornton, Colorado who passed away on February 5, 2021.

Val, as he was known, was born on July 9, 1947 in Taos, New Mexico to Manuel Vigil and Felicia Vallejos. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and secondary education from Adams State University in 1971. Val went on to start his own financial consulting business, Vigil & Company, which he continued operating until his passing.

Val served in local and state government in Colorado for many years. I had the pleasure of working with him when he was a State Representative for House District 32 and during his tenure as a Thornton City Councilmember for eight years—two of which he was Mayor Pro Tem. Beginning in the 1970's, Val became active in the Democratic party for many years where he advocated for the Latino community and issues such as education. During his term in the Colorado State Legislature from 1999 to 2006, he became known for his legacy of promoting higher educational opportunities for students across Colorado. One of Val's lasting impacts on Colorado was his work to pass the ASSET Bill (Senate Bill 13-033), which grants in-state tuition to undocumented students.

In addition to his service in state and local government, Val served on the Board of Trustees for Adams State University from 2011 through 2019. He was an active member of the Adams State Denver Alumni Chapter, and volunteered many hours at local schools as a

guest speaker. He was in high demand to speak on immigration issues and was considered an expert on the topic, as he was the first legislator in Colorado to introduce the in-state tuition legislation in 2000.

Val was known and admired for his passion for community service and his dedication to expanding educational opportunities and advocating for issues important to Colorado's Latino community. Val was a devoted husband and a loving father and grandfather. He loved camping, fishing, gardening, and spending time with his family. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Celina Annabelle Vigil, children Nadine (Sammy) Cordova and Valerie Vigil, and grandchildren Brandon, Jared (Brianna), and Amanda (Jorge) and one great grandchild, Hazel. I am deeply grateful for his lifetime of service to our community.

HONORING THE LIVES OF AL AND
DORA PADILLA

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Al Padilla, who passed away on October 4, 2020, at the age of 90, and his wife, Dora Padilla, who passed away on January 8, 2021, at the age of 86 from COVID-19. Al and Dora touched the lives of countless students in the San Gabriel Valley and were larger than life figures in their communities.

Hector Albert "Al" Padilla was born on March 22, 1930 in Tucson, Arizona, and moved to Los Angeles in 1939. Following high school, Al joined the United States Army and then enrolled in junior college. He transferred to Occidental College and was an all-conference guard on the Occidental football team. After years of playing sports at a young age, Al knew that coaching and mentoring young athletes was his calling. Al coached football at his alma mater, Roosevelt High School, before moving to rival Garfield High School. He went on to be the head football coach at East L.A. College, where he coached the Huskies to a state title in 1974 and was voted the California "Coach of the Year." But it wasn't just wins and losses that made Al a legend in the East L.A. community, it was his impact on the lives of generations of players. Al demanded good grades and sportsmanship from all of his players, and taught them the importance of caring for their loved ones, teammates, and community. And long after his players would graduate, he would stay in touch with them, because he believed that his role as a mentor didn't end when he left the football field.

Al's wife, Dora Padilla, was born on October 4, 1934 to Mexican immigrants. Dora began her long career in education by helping in her children's kindergarten classroom and by leading fundraisers as her children grew up in the Alhambra Unified School District. As she became more involved in school functions, she personally saw what students needed and was determined to bring change at the district level. She ran for the Alhambra Unified School District Board of Education on the slogan "Querer al niño es educarlo," or "To love a child is to educate a child," and won her seat

in 1978. She became well-known as a reliable defender of arts and music programs at a time when the state cut the district's budget, and she has been credited as the reason the school district has maintained a K–8 musical education program until today. She helped create the Alhambra Latino Association in 1995 and advocated for bilingual education, but also believed she represented all students regardless of their background. Dora was elected to five terms on the Board of Education and served for 20 years. In honor of her legacy, Alhambra High School dedicated a plaque outside of their new library in 1996, praising her "continued support and love of students seeking the American dream and equal opportunity."

Al and Dora were married for 64 years and made a lasting impression on their community and on many constituents in my district. I was fortunate to have known Dora well and to have seen the impacts of her achievements in Alhambra, and I saw first-hand the impact that Al had on his players when we both worked at East L.A. College together. Al and Dora leave behind an enduring legacy of public service and the development of generations of children and young adults. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the lives of these two extraordinary individuals.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF NATHANIEL STONE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker I rise today in celebration of the life of Nathaniel Stone. He was a beloved educator and community leader and he will be deeply missed by the people of North Mississippi.

Nat was born on February 17, 1930, to Cleve Hopkins and Miona Stone in Tupelo, Mississippi. He and his brother Louis stayed in the area and attended George Washington Carver School. He joined the United States Army and served in the Korean war before playing baseball in the Negro American Leagues with the Chicago Blacksox and the Memphis Redsox. He later earned his Bachelor's degree at Mississippi Industrial College and Masters of Elementary Education School Administration at Jackson State University.

Mr. Stone was known primarily as an educator. He began his career in Kosciusko before relocating to Tupelo. He was the principal at Green Street Elementary and later Milam Intermediate School. When the school district integrated in 1970, Mr. Stone worked as a liaison with the black community. He inspired countless students, many of whom went on to pursue careers in education.

Mr. Stone is preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Clytee Stone, and is survived by his children; Debra, Nathaniel, and Gwendolyn.

Mr. Stone was a beloved member of the Tupelo community and will always be remembered as an inspiration to countless students.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN, MR. THERON "DOC" B. McElROY

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Charleston, Arkansas native, Mr. Theron "Doc" B. McElroy. Born on January 16, 1921, Mr. McElroy is one of seven children and one of our country's last remaining veterans of World War II.

After joining the United States Army on December 26, 1941, he stormed Utah Beach at Normandy on D-Day, joining thousands of other brave young Americans in a testament of truest heroism. Mr. McElroy earned several medals during his time of military service, such as the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, and many others. He earned an honorable discharge from the Army on December 20, 1945.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Mr. McElroy and his family. In his 100th year, he continues to represent the very best of our nation's greatest generation, and I thank him for his significant impact upon the advance of freedom and the American Dream.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS GUISLER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Thomas Guisler on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough's newly-formed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Guisler in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Guisler for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALBERT PIKE STATUE REMOVAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Albert Pike Statue Removal Act, which would require the removal of the statue of Confederate General Albert Pike from federal land near Judiciary Square in the District of Columbia, which was illegally torn down last

year. The bill also would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to donate the statue to a museum or a similar entity. Last Congress, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed this bill by voice vote. This is the second in a series of statue and memorial removal bills I am introducing during Black History Month.

This statue was authorized, not by the District, but by Congress in 1898, when the District had no home rule. The statue was constructed using both federal and private funds. The Freemasons, of which Pike was a member, donated the majority of the money needed to build and install the statue in 1901. I oppose destroying Confederate statues, because I believe they should be moved to more appropriate settings, like museums, to avoid erasing an important part of history from which Americans must continue to learn.

Pike, a Confederate general who served dishonorably and was forced to resign in disgrace, represents the worst of the Confederacy. Soldiers under his command were found to have mutilated the bodies of Union soldiers, and he was ultimately imprisoned after his fellow Confederate officers reported that he had been misappropriating funds. Adding to the dishonor of taking up arms against the United States, Pike dishonored even his Confederate military service. He certainly has absolutely no claim to be memorialized in the nation's capital. Even those who do not want Confederate statues removed will have to justify according Pike any honor considering his dishonorable history.

After meeting with the Freemasons, I believe the best course of action is to remove the statue and find a more appropriate place for it. Given the statue's divisive nature, the Freemasons themselves support the statue's removal, as do the D.C. Mayor and the D.C. Council.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND BLACK EUROPEANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, rise today to introduce a resolution with my colleagues, Representatives GREGORY MEEKS, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, GWEN MOORE, and BOBBY RUSH. The Honorable John Lewis of Georgia was a previous cosponsor of this legislation. Even as we honor him during Black History Month, I also urge my colleagues to join us in recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans.

Our resolution observes the history and current situation of People of African Descent living in Europe and Black Europeans during the United Nations designated International Decade for People of African Descent. It also encourages the U.S. Secretary of State to take a number of steps to ensure their situation is improved following recommendations from the Anti-racism and People of African Descent Weeks (PADWEEK) held with our colleagues in the European Parliament over the past few

years and anti-racism measures discussed at the September 2020 Joint Meeting I hosted in my capacity as Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission with my European colleagues “Reinforcing U.S.-EU Parliamentary Coordination to Combat Racism and Systemic Discrimination.”

Recommendations from these efforts have included the implementation of EU-wide anti-racism strategies; European Black History Month and Remembrance Day for Victims of Colonialism and Enslavement; a fund for Black European led initiatives to address continuing disparities and discrimination and support for empowerment initiatives; European-wide strategies for the inclusion of People of African Descent; and support for transatlantic exchanges on common issues of racial prejudice and discrimination.

The need for recognition of Black populations in Europe became clear more than a decade ago when I chaired a U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, “The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics”, where we learned that the situation in Europe is very similar to the one in the United States. A number of these similarities were most recently highlighted by global racial justice protests following the murder of George Floyd.

While the presence of Blacks in Europe can be traced to enslavement, colonization, military deployments, voluntary or forced migration, the movement of refugees and asylum seekers, or educational and other professional exchanges, the story of Europeans of African Descent and Black Europeans still remains largely untold—rendering many of their past and present contributions to the very fabric of Europe unseen or forgotten, which is unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that when we gather in the years to come to review the efforts of the United Nations designated International Decade for People of African Descent, we will not only speak of how our efforts resulted in our respective nations publicly recognizing the injustices and long-term impact of slavery and colonialism, but also of how our societies reconciled these issues in a manner that ensured equal opportunity, access, and justice for all people of African descent.

I am greatly encouraged by recent Executive Orders from President Biden focused on equity and justice in this country, and see the adoption of this resolution on Black Europeans as well as a bill I have introduced calling for the creation of a State Department Office on Global African Descent Affairs as complementary to the President’s domestic efforts. I urge you to join me in supporting this resolution recognizing Black Europeans and other efforts in support of achieving racial justice.

SUPERMARKET EMPLOYEE DAY PROCLAMATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation. On

behalf of the people of Wisconsin I, MARK POCAN, United States Representative of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2021, as Supermarket Employee Day.

Whereas, there are nearly six million supermarket employees in the United States; and

Whereas, in Wisconsin there are 148,959 food retail jobs that generate \$15,630,033,800 in economic activity; and

Whereas, supermarket employees provide all Americans with access to safe, healthy, and affordable food; and

Whereas, supermarket employees work to enhance the health and well-being of each customer; and

Whereas, supermarket employees contribute and volunteer countless hours in their communities; and

Whereas, supermarket employees face unprecedented challenges keeping grocery shelves stocked during the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

Whereas, supermarket employees have and continue to meet and exceed these challenges, while displaying courage, compassion, dedication, and leadership, as well as exemplifying customer service and community outreach; and

Whereas, the need for supermarket employees is greater than ever because of current and growing consumer demands as well as their reputation for excellence; now therefore I, MARK POCAN, United States Representative of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2021 as Supermarket Employee Day and ask all citizens to join in honoring our Supermarket Heroes.

REFUGEE SANITATION FACILITY SAFETY ACT OF 2021

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the reintroduction of the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2021. This bill will ensure women and girls in refugee camps are able to access bathrooms without fear of violence.

Refugees awaiting resettlement are fleeing conditions like war, violence, and persecution. While many hope to find safety in temporary refugee camps, violence and insecurity can also follow, especially for women and girls. Women are at a greater risk of experiencing sexual assault and violence if they do not have separate bathrooms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, refugees are even more vulnerable and even more in need of secure access to sanitation.

The measure would remedy this problem by ensuring recipients of U.S. aid provide safe and secure access to sanitation facilities, with a special emphasis on women and girls, and vulnerable populations.

Women and girls deserve and need sanitation facilities that are safe and free from harm. It is disheartening that today’s refugee camps create conditions that allow sexual assault and violence to occur. This is why I am leading this legislation with Congressman ZELDIN to

ensure women, girls, and other vulnerable populations have access to safe and secure restrooms. Last Congress, this bill unanimously passed the House of Representatives. I urge my colleagues to support this measure so that it can finally be signed into law.

IN RECOGNITION OF ADAM STEELE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Adam Steele on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough’s newly-formed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Steele in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Steele for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE ARIZONA INFORMANT

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Arizona Informant, a newspaper which for the past fifty years has reported on news that directly impacts the Black community across the Phoenix Valley. The Arizona Informant now reaches 100,000 weekly readers and is the only Black owned weekly newspaper in our state.

The Arizona Informant started with an investment of just \$1 in 1971 by brothers, Clovis Campbell Sr. and Charles Campbell, who noticed there was a lack of coverage on issues affecting the Black community in Arizona. Clovis, the first Black Arizona State Senator, and Charles, an educator with a doctorate in higher education administration, were pillars of the Black community in Phoenix whose impact across the Valley is still felt today.

Still family owned and operated, the Arizona Informant has stayed true to its mission of bringing to the forefront stories of accomplishment and achievement in the Black community. The protests that erupted after George Floyd last summer and the ongoing struggle for racial justice have shown that the work of the Arizona Informant is needed now as much, if not more, than it was fifty years ago.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I am proud to be able to recognize and uplift the Arizona Informant. I wish to congratulate the Arizona Informant on fifty years of ‘Recording Black History Every Week’ and thank them for their continued work.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONORABLE
JANE HARMAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the Honorable Jane Hannan on the occasion of her retirement from her role as President and CEO of the Wilson Center after nearly a decade in leadership. The Wilson Center is the nation's leading non-partisan policy forum tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue.

As the Wilson Center's first female Director, President and CEO, Ms. Hannan leveraged her deep connections across the political spectrum—including lawmakers, global leaders and foreign dignitaries—to ensure the Wilson Center is poised for continued success and growth. Under her leadership, the Wilson Center was named the “number one” regional studies think tank in the world.

Ms. Harman created the Global Women's Leadership Initiative, which works to accelerate global progress towards equal participation in policy and political leadership among women. She revamped the Center and successfully oversaw the transition of the Wilson Quarterly from a print-only publication to an all-digital, award-winning interactive publication reaching thousands of listeners and viewers during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

A native of Los Angeles and a product of local public schools, Ms. Harman graduated from Smith College and began her long and remarkable career in public service as a staffer for U.S. Senator John V. Tunney until she transitioned to President Jimmy Carter's Administration as Special Counsel to the Department of Defense and as Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet.

In 1992, Ms. Harman was elected to represent the constituents of California's 36th Congressional District as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives where she became a pillar of bipartisanship and an internationally recognized authority on U.S. and global security issues. She served on all major security committees, including six years on the Armed Services Committee and eight years on both the House Intelligence Committee and the House Committee on Homeland Security. I became good friends with Ms. Harman when she was the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee and experienced first-hand her excellent leadership and mentorship as we traveled to some of the world's most dangerous places. Representative Hannan received awards and accolades too numerous to mention in their entirety.

I am honored to call Ms. Harman a personal friend and proud of what the Wilson Center has accomplished under her leadership. On behalf of my constituents and all American citizens, I thank her for her service to our nation and I wish her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DREW
COUNTY DEPUTY, SGT. AC SIMP-
SON JR.

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Sgt. AC Simpson Jr., a committed servant of the Drew County, Arkansas Sheriffs Department for over 35 years. Sgt. Simpson passed away on Sunday, January 31, leaving behind a legacy of joyful service to his beloved home.

Having first started his career as an auxiliary deputy in 1985, Sgt. Simpson worked full-time for the Drew County Sheriffs office since 2001. Noted as an avid bowler and fisherman, he was also an invested family man with three grandsons and one granddaughter. His legacy of law enforcement continued in his grandson, Xavier, who became an auxiliary deputy in Drew County in 2020. Remembered most for his ability to brighten anyone's day, Sgt. Simpson's service made him a friend to all in his community.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Sgt. AC Simpson Jr. I thank him and his family for their dedication to our fellow citizens and our beloved Fourth District.

WISHING FLORENCE CLARKE A
HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great distinction that I rise today to observe and celebrate the 80th birthday of Reverend Florence Dorothy Jeffries Gilliard Clarke. Florence is the epitome of an altruistic American. A teacher, devout pastor, and community advocate who has dedicated her life to enriching the lives of those within our eastern Connecticut community.

Florence's life began down south in Charleston, SC on February 21, 1941. Guided by a strong spirit and support from loved ones, Florence overcame the tragic loss of her parents at a young age. An astute student, Florence won a scholarship to attend SC State College to pursue a degree in Business Administration. It was during her time at SC State that Florence began to lend her voice to decry mass injustices across our nation marching alongside our colleague U.S. House Representative JIM CLYBURN to desegregate American public schools. Sixty years ago, Florence and JIM and 185 others were arrested at a peaceful protest in front of the state house in Columbia, South Carolina. Despite its peaceful nature, they were convicted of breach of peace and locked up for three days. They appealed this injustice all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and the court ruled in their favor in a landmark first amendment case, *Edwards V. South Carolina*.

Florence remained in South Carolina after college and began her career as a teacher. Drawing from her life experiences, Florence was a beacon of wisdom for her students and

taught not only with energy and positivity, but with care and kindness. Eventually, Florence and her husband, who served in the U.S. NAVY, moved to Connecticut where he was stationed at the Subbase New London. After the untimely passing of her husband, Florence chose to remain in Connecticut. Shifting her career focus, Florence took a position with General Dynamics-Electric Boat—contributing to building our nation's dominant fleet of submarines. Florence, now a true Nutmegger, stayed at Electric Boat for more than 25 years before retiring to return to her passion of teaching. She joined the East Lyme, Waterford, Montville and New London school systems as a substitute teacher and became such a renowned figure in the eastern Connecticut school system that in 2002 she was selected as the commencement speaker for Waterford High School's graduating class.

However, Florence's service to the community went far beyond confines of our schools. The church was another vessel for which she inspired the action of others. In 1975, guided by a deep-rooted mission to serve, Florence became an active member of Walls Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in New London. Her involvement with the church continued to grow and took a pivotal turn in 1997 when she became an ordained pastor and organized Clarke Memorial A.M.E. Zion—at that time the first new congregation admitted in the annual conference in twenty years. Her journey within the ministry came full circle in 2014 when the congregations of Walls Temple and Clarke Memorial merged to become Walls Clarke Temple A.M.E. Zion. With a humble spirit, Florence celebrated 40 years of service in Christian ministry in 2015 and retired from 20 years of pastoral ministry in June 2017.

Florence is unabated in her fight against racial oppression and strives to empower those within her community. I am honored to have marched on State Street with Florence in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, witnessed her advocacy for children through the establishment of National Children's Day, and stood in solidarity with her as we tried to reconcile the tragic acts of June 17, 2015, at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Florence's legacy will forever be ingrained in the fabric of Eastern Connecticut—influencing generation after generation.

Madam Speaker, Fellow Colleagues—I ask you to please join me in wishing Florence a happy 80th birthday and aid me in showing appreciation to this outstanding citizen. Florence, we wish you a joyous celebration on your special day and many more years of happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF NED CRAFTS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ned Crafts on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough's newly formed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal

rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Crafts in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Crafts for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT
PATRICIA SALAZAR

HON. DEBRA A. HAALAND

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Technical Sergeant Patricia Salazar, who retired from the New Mexico Air National Guard on December 2, 2018 as a Master Sergeant after 25 years of distinguished service. Throughout her accomplished career, Technical Sergeant Salazar played many valuable roles in defense of our state and our nation. A native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Technical Sergeant Salazar graduated from St. Michael's High School in 1980. She received an athletic scholarship from the College of Santa Fe and graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology. She went on to receive a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from California State University, Long Beach in 1986. After completing her graduate degree, Technical Sergeant Salazar returned to her home state and attended New Mexico State Police Training Academy. She then enlisted in the United States Air Force and completed her training in 1993.

Technical Sergeant Salazar began her tenure with the New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Security Forces Squadron at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, she helped develop and initiate emergency evacuation plans for senior Pentagon leadership. In 2003, she transitioned to the New Mexico Army National Guard's 1209th Medical Detachment. From 2009 to 2011, Technical Sergeant Salazar was stationed in Kosovo and supervised a team of field medics during deployment and field operations. In 2012, she returned to Kirtland to serve with the New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Special Operations Wing.

My predecessor, Representative Lujan Grisham, had the pleasure of meeting Technical Sergeant Salazar in 2017 when she worked with the Air Force to ensure that her father, Staff Sergeant Joe Salazar, received the medals he earned while serving our nation in World War II. He served with the 497th Bombardment Group of the Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1945, earning several honors including a Bronze Star. Mr. Salazar was also a role model for his daughter when she enlisted and during her service overseas.

Madam Speaker, I want to salute Technical Sergeant Patricia Salazar for her 25 years of service to New Mexico and the United States. It is hard-working, service-minded individuals like her who continue to make our state and our nation so great. I wish her the best of luck.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEADERSHIP
SHIP INSTITUTE FOR TRANS-
ATLANTIC ENGAGEMENT (LITE)
ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement (LITE) Act—a bill that will create an institute to assist in strengthening ties with our allies, protect democratic institutions, and support inclusive and visionary leadership on both sides of the Atlantic.

In my capacity as Chair and in the leadership of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, for over a decade, I have led hearings and other initiatives on international election observation, good governance, and democratic backsliding as part of our continued commitment to the underlying principles of the Helsinki Final Act adopted by the 57 North American, European, and Eurasian countries that make up the region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Last Congress these activities included a hearing series entitled, "Human Rights at Home", hosting young OSCE parliamentarians in the U.S. Congress to discuss how we can strengthen their political inclusion to advance peace and security efforts, and commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference and Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network that have been pivotal in strengthening inclusive and strategic international relations over the past decade.

These activities have identified numerous challenges in western leadership and countries—including my own—that are putting our democracies and the transatlantic partnership at risk. For instance, a 2020 Pew Research study found that in 11 of the 57 countries that make up the region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), approximately half of those surveyed are dissatisfied with the way democracy in their countries is functioning with high rates of dissatisfaction in Italy, Greece, and the United States. Internal domestic challenges including economic decline, the rise of antiestablishment political parties, the weakening of the rule of law, increased migration, and heightened security concerns are only some of the sources of dissatisfaction. Continuing racial and other disparities in wealth, health, employment, education, justice, and other sectors have also led citizens and others to question whether democracy delivers.

To renew confidence in the shared values that underpin Western democracies and the transatlantic partnership, we need to bolster initiatives that restore faith in democratic institutions. This includes identifying and strengthening the roles leaders can play in ensuring laws are equitable, transparent, and enforced; elections are free and fair; and that rights and protections are equally extended to all in their constituencies. And our efforts must include those that have long been excluded from fully participating in our society.

As such, the LITE Act establishes an institute to assist Western countries in living up to

democratic ideals and restoring faith in democracy, by equipping transatlantic policymakers with legislative, communications, conflict resolution and other leadership tools to strengthen democratic institutions in their societies and the transatlantic relationship. Given demographic change on both sides of the Atlantic, LITE will cultivate inclusive and intergenerational solutions to current challenges with the goal of empowering diverse individuals across generations with the knowledge, tools, opportunity, and access to fully participate in their democracies. In addition, LITE will support strategies that reunify communities by assisting leaders in building resilience against the exploitation of community grievances that can lead to dangerous divisions in our societies.

The LITE Act therefore complements and provides an essential tool for executing President Biden's Executive Orders on racial equity and addressing discrimination and plans to re-engage with our European allies and hold a Democracy Summit.

I hope you will join me in supporting LITE to strengthen our democratic future and the transatlantic partnership.

HONORING MELANIE RHINEHART
VAN TASSELL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my Chief of Staff, Melanie Rhinehart Van Tassell, for a decade of service to me and to the people of California's Fifth Congressional District.

Born in Santa Cruz and raised in Antioch, Melanie attended high school and college in the East Bay, graduating in 1996 with dual degrees in Political Science and Business from the University of California, Berkeley. She went to work in the litigation consulting industry until 2001, when she left to earn a Master's in Business Administration at New York University's Stern School of Business. Upon graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C. to use her intellect for public service.

Melanie began her career on Capitol Hill as a part-time intern in Congress before being hired as a legislative assistant to Congressman Earl Pomeroy in March of 2004. In just three short years, she took over as his legislative director, overseeing the congressman's policy agenda. After the 2010 midterm elections, I hired her to manage my legislative team at the strong recommendation of Congressman Pomeroy. Within months, she was promoted to Chief of Staff, becoming possibly the kindest, most genuine person to ever serve in such a position.

In my office, Melanie has proven herself to be an effective, charismatic leader and a skilled political operative. Handling issues of the utmost importance to our district, she has taken on a portfolio that spans natural disasters to the Wine Caucus. All the while, she has used her unbelievably positive, infectious personality to make everyone she interacts with feel special.

Despite the long hours involved with leading a congressional office, Melanie carves out quality time to spend with her husband Steven

and their young son Shane, whom she has ingrained with a deep appreciation for two of her favorite things—Disney and stuffed animals. Volunteering as Silent Auction Chair for her son's preschool in Alexandria, she showcased the same tenacity that serves her so well as Chief of Staff. Melanie raised over \$20,000 for two consecutive school years, blowing out any record in the school's history.

Madam Speaker, my staff, myself, and the people of our district are deeply grateful for Melanie Rhinehart Van Tassell's expert guidance over these last 10 years. She personifies service, generosity, and leadership, and I am especially proud and honored to have her as my Chief of Staff.

CARL CERVENY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carl Cerveney of Wheat Ridge, Colorado who passed away on January 27, 2021.

Carl Albert Cerveney was born on October 11, 1929. He attended Columbine Elementary School, Smiley Middle School and graduated from East High in 1947. He then enrolled at the University of Colorado as a second-generation CU student in the business school and graduated with a degree in marketing in 1951.

In 1957, Carl helped to found the Wheat Ridge Optimist Club. Being a founding member was no coincidence, with family and friends frequently describing Carl as one of the most optimistic people they knew. He ran their annual Optimist Pancake Supper for 60 years and served as president of the club twice. In 2010, the Club established the Carl Cerveney Scholarship Fund for graduates of Wheat Ridge High School.

Carl was known and admired for his passion for community service and his dedication to the Wheat Ridge community. He played an active role in enforcing the special election provision of the TABOR amendment in the city. Carl served on the board of the Westridge Sanitation District for 10 years, also serving as its president, and also served on the Planning Commission of Wheat Ridge for 10 years. In 1997, he walked the entire length of Wheat Ridge with his wife, Gretchen, when she ran and was elected the Mayor of Wheat Ridge.

Carl had a separate career running the Scotchman Restaurant in Wyoming. After the closure of the restaurant in 1977, Carl began his second career in real estate. After earning a Broker Certification from the University of Colorado and working for several agencies, Carl owned/operated Carl Cerveney Realty until he retired in 1999. Carl served on the Legislative Committee of the Colorado Association of Realtors and was honored with the Political Service Award by the Jefferson County Association of Realtors in 1991.

Carl was a devoted husband and a loving father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Gretchen, along with their three children and families: daughter Mara Marks, husband Stephen and their son Colby; daughter Carla Rail, husband Anton and their son Jacob, daughter Martha, and son Nathan

with his wife Emily; son Chris Cerveney, wife Lorie Chandler and their sons Chandler and Chase. I appreciate and thank him for his lifetime of service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAY GHANER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ray Ghaner on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough's newly-formed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Ghaner in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Ghaner for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN, MR. DAVID MCLINTON GREEN

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Warren, Arkansas native, Mr. David McClinton Green. Born on February 13, 1921, Mr. Green has lived a life of hard work, perseverance, and service to God and country.

Learning the value of a work ethic at a young age, his first job was at the Dr. Pepper Bottling Company in Warren. After being drafted into the Army at age 22, Mr. Green served for three years alongside thousands of young men during World War II. This service continued throughout his near 40-year career at local mills and Potlatch Deltic. He and his wife, Lillie Mae Feaster Green, had 7 children, and over their 66 years of marriage, they watched their family grow to include 18 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great grandchildren.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Mr. Green and his family. In his 100th year, he continues to represent the very best of our nation's greatest generation, and I thank him for his significant impact upon the advance of freedom and the American Dream.

FEBRUARY VETERAN OF THE MONTH, COL. WEYDAN FLAX, USMC (RET)

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's February Veteran of the Month, Col. Weydan Flax, USMC (Ret).

An artillery and communications officer in the United States Marine Corps, Col. Weydan Flax honorably served our nation for 30 years. He served in Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.

After his retirement, he has faithfully served his fellow veterans and community through his volunteer work with the VFW, and Marine Corps League. In addition to volunteering with veteran organizations, Flax is an active board member for The Center for Individuals with Physical Disabilities.

He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Col. Flax as the First Congressional District of Oklahoma's February Veteran of the Month.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CATHERINE "CATHY" WAGNER OF BURLINGTON

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Catherine "Cathy" Wagner of Burlington. Cathy was born and raised in Southeast Wisconsin and dedicated her career to serving our Racine County community. Growing up on the family farm, Cathy developed strong values and a hard work ethic that would remain with her throughout her life. Cathy graduated from Burlington High School and later joined the ranks of Rochester Volunteer Fire Company and enrolled at Gateway Technical College to study firefighting and police work.

Cathy Wagner was a dedicated public servant. She served a combined 31 years for the Rochester and Burlington Town Fire Departments. She was a firefighter, an EMT, and became Assistant Chief of the Rochester Volunteer Fire Company. Cathy instilled this passion to service in her two children, who are involved in the Rochester Fire Company.

When her son was born with spina bifida, Cathy enrolled in nursing school to learn how she could better care for him and would go on to obtain a master's degree in nursing. For years, she worked as a registered nurse in hospital rooms where she was able to follow her passion of caring for others.

Cathy passed away on February 2, 2021. She is remembered by her family, colleagues, and friends for her generosity, empathy, and service. Cathy was a valued member of our community and inspiration to many. She is remembered by colleagues at the Rochester Fire Company or being "the heart and soul" of the department.

Racine County will be forever grateful for Cathy's dedication to public service. Cathy's work to make our community a better place will always be remembered. On behalf of Wisconsin's First Congressional District, I offer my sincere condolences and prayers to Cathy's children, family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. She will be missed by many, but her passion for service and positive impact on those she met will continue to inspire us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TRABON GROUP

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with immense pride to recognize and celebrate the Trabon Group for their contributions to the fight against the COVID-19 global pandemic. Despite the many challenges posed by this virulent virus, the Trabon Group quickly shifted its business operations to help build Personal Protective Equipment for those in Kansas City and across the United States. I am truly honored to represent the Trabon Group, and their commitment to public health is admirable and well worth reflection.

The Trabon Group is a commercial printing business and menu software supplier based in Kansas City, Missouri, that has provided services to over one thousand clients nationwide and printed more than forty-three million menus and prints. Since 1975, the Trabon Group has been providing countless businesses with high quality marketing and sales prints such as brochures and flyers, as well as menu data services that have revolutionized the restaurant industry. With forty-six years of experience, the Trabon Group has become a fixture of the Kansas City business community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked destruction on American lives and on American livelihoods. One of the first economic sectors to feel the devastating effects of the pandemic was the restaurant industry. Soon to follow was the entire ecosystem of other businesses, including the Trabon Group, who counted restaurants among their most loyal clients. At the beginning of last year, as businesses began to shut their doors, paychecks began to disappear, and cases began to rise, the Trabon Group, like so many others, faced mounting challenges to stay open and pay their employees. Our nation was caught off guard by this virus, and the situation looked bleak. However, in March of 2020, the Trabon group crafted an innovative idea that allowed them to continue operations and maintain their workforce, all while serving struggling communities across the United States.

After communicating with schools, healthcare organizations, and hospitals, the Trabon Group recognized the dire need for protective equipment and began producing face shields. They then went about rethinking their printing machine capabilities and collected the supplies required to produce the shields on a large scale. Within the first few days of producing protective equipment, the Trabon Group, under the brand USA Shields LLC., produced and shipped around fifty thou-

sand medical grade face shields. As a part of this endeavor, the Trabon Group was able to bring back seventy-two of their furloughed workers and are now supplying around eight thousand face shields a day to be shipped to hospitals, restaurants, meatpacking facilities, colleges, and high schools throughout Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Texas.

The Trabon Group had previously set itself apart in the business community by creating the groundbreaking MenuNet software that has allowed restaurants to better manage their data, but this past year has truly shown their innovative nature and passion for service. As vaccines arrive in cities and towns all across the United States, and as our country begins to see the light at the end of the tunnel, businesses like the Trabon Group will continue to be paramount in defeating this destructive virus. It gives me great hope for the future to see businesses like the Trabon Group step up to serve in times of difficulty, and I am extremely thankful for their efforts to save lives and jobs alike. Throughout American history, our people have confronted many seemingly insurmountable challenges. Much like past generations who faced daunting odds, the American people are meeting these challenges with strength, determination, and deep forethought for their fellow citizens.

Today, we celebrate local businesses such as the Trabon Group, who exemplify what true representatives of servant leadership look like. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the outstanding work of the Trabon Group in the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Let us seek to emulate their example by setting our talents and resources upon the urgent work of helping those in need.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAMMY STUBER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Tammy Stuber on her appointment to Huntingdon Borough's newly-formed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Ms. Stuber in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Ms. Stuber for her leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate her on being appointed to this commission.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL POLICE CAMERA AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2021

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Representative DONALD S. BEYER

Jr., introduce the Federal Police Camera and Accountability Act of 2021. This bill would require uniformed federal law enforcement officers to wear body cameras and federal marked police vehicles to have dashboard cameras. It would also require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on federal police officers' training, vehicle pursuits, use of force and interaction with citizens. Last Congress, we introduced a virtually identical bill, which was included in the House-passed George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020.

After the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, the urgency of this bill has become even more apparent. The U.S. Capitol Police tried to stop the mob attack, but without body cameras, we have been forced to rely on social media, cameras in the Capitol and public reporting to learn what happened. The events at Lafayette Square last year, where U.S. Park Police and other federal police officers forcibly removed peaceful protestors so the president could hold a photo op, is another recent example of why our bill is needed.

On November 17, 2017, Bijan Ghaisar was fatally shot in his car by uniformed U.S. Park Police officers in Fairfax County, Virginia, after a vehicle pursuit on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Video of this shooting only became available through a camera in a Fairfax County Police Department patrol car that was providing backup. Had it not been for that footage, which was recorded and released by that local police department, the public would not have had access to the circumstances surrounding Mr. Ghaisar's death. Moreover, the footage revealed concerns about the Park Police's pursuit and engagement policies.

Body and dashboard cameras for federal law enforcement officers are particularly important for the officers stationed in the nation's capital, where the Park Police and the uniformed division of the U.S. Secret Service have full local police powers. Many other federal police departments also have local police powers near their respective agency buildings in the District of Columbia. Cameras can increase transparency for individual interactions with police, strengthen public trust and even deter future criminal behavior. For example, when criminals know that they are being recorded by a dashboard camera, they may be less likely to flee the scene of a traffic accident because they realize that their license plate will be documented. Criminals may also be less likely to batter an officer because the recording may be used as evidence. On the other hand, officers will also be less likely to commit offenses for the same reason. Body and dashboard cameras can also be used to train current and future officers more effectively in best and worst practices.

An increasing number of local police departments, including the Metropolitan Police Department in the District, are using body and dashboard cameras. It is clear that both law enforcement and the public would benefit from federal police departments following suit to increase transparency and maintain public trust.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FLORIDA
A&M UNIVERSITY BRAGG MEMO-
RIAL COVID-19 TESTING SITE

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to highlight the impactful work that is being done at the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Bragg Memorial COVID-19 testing site in Tallahassee, Florida.

Since the start of the start of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the FAMU testing site has been providing free testing for residents of Tallahassee/Leon County, and indeed all of North Florida and South Georgia for nearly 10 months.

The FAMU COVID-19 testing center first opened on April 25, 2020, and has administered more than 234,000 tests. I applaud FAMU for springing into action to address the needs of North Florida residents by serving as a COVID-19 testing site. I am convinced that their efforts have helped to save lives in our community.

Madam Speaker, I would especially like to thank FAMU President Larry Robinson, Tanya Tatum, FAMU Director of Student Health Services, Cynthia Harris, Ph.D., FAMU associate dean for Public Health, and all the others who saw the need and spearheaded this effort, along with the frontline heroes coordinating and administering the tests.

Their efforts are working to keep us safe and save lives. They are putting their health and safety at risk for the safety of our families and to protect our community. I understand the tremendous sacrifices they are making, and I sincerely appreciate their service.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EN-
SURE FAIR ACCESS AND OPPOR-
TUNITY TO FEDERAL JOBS FOR
ALL AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to ensure fair access and opportunity to Federal jobs for all Americans. For close to two decades now, I and many of my colleagues have been fighting to increase diversity in the federal workforce. In particular, I have focused on the international affairs and national security sector where I have called for a diversity plan from the Director of National Intelligence, as well as for the Department of State and USAID. During the 116th Congress, in my capacity as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I held hearings and supported initiatives focused on equity and justice issues in the United States and abroad. And, I have not been alone in my efforts. House and Senate committees responsible for our foreign relations and national security held several hearings focused on diversity in federal agencies. Additionally, Congressionally mandated reports from the Government Accountability Office found that diversity targets set close to a

decade ago were not being met at the State Department and USAID.

My colleagues and I have engaged in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the Federal government not because they are nice or correct, but because they are what is in the best interest for the longevity of our nation. The U.S. workforce is becoming more racially, ethnically, and otherwise diverse, with estimates that, by 2050, over half of the workforce will be made up of Americans from diverse populations. Jobs across our government, whether they are in the military, intelligence, foreign service, health, or education sectors, will require that we not only hire, but also retain a more diverse federal workforce to sustain the needs of our country and remain a stable democracy.

To do so, we must have a plan. My bill calls for a government-wide diversity and inclusion plan that ensures that all branches of government are engaged in multi-year strategic planning that recruits, hires, promotes, retains, and supports leadership from America's diverse talent pool in the federal workforce for the good of our country. It also calls for a review of diversity, equity, and inclusion in government contracting and grantmaking, as both are often also pathways to government employment.

My bill therefore complements and provides an essential tool for executing the recent Executive Orders on racial equity and addressing discrimination and disparities in the workplace released by President Biden over the past two weeks.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are the underpinnings of democratic societies. It is time that we enforce democratic values by ensuring all segments of our society have equal access and opportunity to contribute to a vibrant workforce that is at the heart of our democracy for the future of our nation.

HONORING MR. SAM SPRUELL OF
MOUNT HOPE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Sam Spruell from Mount Hope, Alabama who passed away on January 7, 2021 after a life of sixty-three years. He was an upstanding citizen of our state, a respected member of the Mount Hope community, and an outstanding businessman and farmer.

Sam Spruell was an Alabamian through and through, widely known for the kindness and friendship he displayed throughout his entire life. More importantly, Sam was a husband, father, and farmer who cared deeply about his work and the people around him. Never missing an opportunity to lend a helping hand, Sam was always available to those who needed him.

Sam was also a champion for Alabama cotton and the producers throughout the state. He served as President of the Southern Cotton Growers from 2004 through 2005, a testament to his dedication and passion to the industry. He was also a member of the Southeastern Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, the Alabama Cotton Commission, and the Na-

tional Cotton Council. There is no doubt that Sam's countless hours of hard work in these arenas made an indelible impact for the State of Alabama and the nation—one that will continue for years to come.

Sam Spruell was a sincere and true man of God. As a leader of the Community Clothes Closet and Ministry of Hope, Sam played a key role in serving those around him. He went on to donate an entire building to The Caring Place, a charity near and dear to his heart.

Sam Spruell is now survived by his wife Lynn Spruell, and two children, Jonathon Spruell and Liz Rhodes. In addition, he is survived by his five grandchildren, Shelby, Madi, Max, Mia, and Cam.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Sam's family and friends. The Fourth District, the state of Alabama, and the nation have lost a friend and patriot. However, there is no question that his legacy and impact will live on well into the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER
PINE BLUFF MAYOR, CAROLYN
ROBINSON

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Former Mayor of Pine Bluff, Carolyn Robinson. Mayor Robinson passed away on Thursday, January 14, 2021, leaving behind a legacy of service to her community.

Elected the first female city council member in 1978, Robinson became the first female Mayor of Pine Bluff, serving two terms from 1984 to 1992. She was described by her colleagues in public service as a trailblazer who broke all the barriers to best serve her city.

Born August 6, 1936, in nearby Cornerstone, Mayor Robinson graduated from Altheimer High School. In 1960, she married Fred Robinson, and together, they raised three children, Renee, Tina, and Robbie. With three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, she was known as a committed family woman.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Mayor Carolyn Robinson. I thank her and her family for their dedication to our fellow citizens and our beloved Fourth District.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALTOONA
POLICE CHIEF JANICE FREEHLING

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Altoona Police Chief Janice Freehling on her retirement.

Chief Freehling has honorably served the Altoona Police Department for more than 44 years. During her career, she has held the following positions: Patrolman, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and most recently Chief.

In 2001, she was promoted to Chief of the department and is the first woman to serve in

the position. Under her leadership, the Altoona Police Department has persevered through challenges and experienced much success. Specifically, Chief Freehling has been recognized for her excellent management of the department, as well as her work to modernize the department with 21st century tools and

training. Thanks to Chief Freehling's hard work and dedication, the City of Altoona is a safe community to live, work, and raise a family.

As Chief Freehling retires on March 1—the 20th anniversary of her promotion to Chief—our community celebrates this servant-hearted leader. On behalf of the 13th District of Penn-

sylvania, it is my privilege to thank Chief Freehling and honor her longstanding service to the City of Altoona. As Chief Freehling embarks on a new chapter, I congratulate her on her retirement and wish her every continued happiness.