

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CUSTOM HEALTH OPTION AND INDIVIDUAL CARE EXPENSE ARRANGEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2023*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3799) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for health reimbursement arrangements integrated with individual health insurance coverage.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3799, which makes two substantial changes to health coverage policy, both of which are very harmful to workers.

H.R. 3799 aims to codify a Trump Administration rule on Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Accounts (ICHRA) and rename them "CHOICE" accounts.

While this bill certainly allows employers to make choices, it also allows employers to discriminate against certain employees.

First, H.R. 3799 could circumvent Affordable Care Act (ACA) protections on pre-existing conditions, lifetime and annual limits, and preventive care.

This legislation describes individual market coverage but does not explicitly reference the code in defining an individual health insurance plan that requires the ACA market protections like pre-existing conditions protections.

The policy is intended to allow plans that are unable to selffund with adequate reserves to instead purchase a high level of stop-loss insurance.

Lack of adequate reserves leave many of these plans, and their enrollees, at risk since stop-loss insurers often retain the right to drop the insurance if medical costs for the group begin to climb.

This is not a stable form of coverage.

Secondly, this bill leaves room for employers to offer less coverage through ICHRA to lower income workers, hourly workers, or seasonal workers, reserving better coverage for executives.

The mere offer of an ICHRA may leave employees worse off.

For example, an employee who has an offer of an "affordable" HRA is prevented from accessing premium tax credits in the marketplace.

A Brookings analysis found that allowing employers to offer IHRAs alongside a traditional group health insurance plan could increase marketplace premiums by 16 percent to 93 percent.

This offer hurts lower-wage workers where they would otherwise be able to find more affordable coverage in the marketplace and could lead to higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs than under ACA coverage for the employee.

We have seen this from Republicans before, using policies to make the marketplace risk pool weaker, instead of more robust.

Overall, this bill makes it easy for employers to target workers with higher health costs, sending them to the individual market with a voucher.

Republicans once again, are putting wealth before health.

We must work together to mitigate these concerns and include important safeguards that protect employees from discrimination.

Every American is entitled to affordable healthcare, and we must ensure that every American can make the best health care choices for their families.

### CONGRATULATING THE UNIONVILLE-SEBEWAING AREA PATRIOTS ON THEIR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Patriots on their fourth consecutive state softball championship, which also marks their ninth overall title. The unmatched dedication, skill, and determination of these incredible athletes have once more brought great pride to our community.

This team's triumph not only further solidifies their place as champions, but also sets a new standard of excellence for future athletes to follow. The Patriots' commitment to their craft, their tireless hours of practice, and their winning sportsmanship have certainly propelled them to this fantastic achievement.

As we celebrate this resounding victory, we must also remember that this victory extends far beyond the field. Behind this team, there are incredibly dedicated and supportive coaches, teachers, friends, and families.

It is no small feat to achieve victory once, let alone four straight times. This team has continuously showcased their resilience, winning spirit, and tireless dedication, and it is no doubt that this mindset led to yet another victory.

On behalf of Michigan's 9th Congressional District, I extend my most sincere congratulations to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Patriots and to all the coaches and families who have helped build this outstanding record.

### CELEBRATING THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE 4TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is one of the oldest and most influential African-American denominations in the United States. The roots of the AME Church can be traced back to the late 18th century during a time of intense racial segregation and discrimination in the United States. The institution of slavery was deeply entrenched, and African Americans faced severe restrictions in practicing their faith within predominantly white churches.

In 1787, Richard Allen, a former slave and preacher, along with other black Methodist worshippers, formed the Free African Society in Philadelphia. The society aimed to provide spiritual support, education, and assistance to African Americans in the city.

The AME Church convenes regular conferences and conventions at various levels within its organizational structure, of which the Biennial is one. The Biennial Meeting of the Connectional Lay Organization is done every two years. The Lay Organization of the AME Church is commissioned to teach, train, and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership, and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

Located in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, the 4th Episcopal District Connectional Lay Organization of the AME Church will host two conventions in Chicago from June 25–30, 2023: the 81st Annual Connectional Lay Organization Meeting, and the 38th Connectional Lay Biennial Convention. Their theme is: "Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates".

I salute the work of the Connectional Lay Organization under the leadership of: Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker, Commission Chair and newly-elected Council of Bishops President; Bishop John Franklin White, Host Bishop; Mrs. Penny H. White, Episcopal Supervisor; Matikane Abe Makiti, President of the Connectional Lay Organization of the AME Church; Mrs. Patricia Wright, Connectional Director of Lay Activities; Ms. Jameshia Williams, Connectional Young Adult Representative; Mr. Jerry Turner, Jr., 4th District Episcopal President; Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Jr., 4th District Episcopal Director of Lay Activities; and Mr. Terrence Sanford, 4th District Episcopal Young Adult Representative.

I welcome the participants of the Biennial Meeting of the 4th Episcopal District Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, and I wish them much success.

• 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.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 140. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

## HONORING DANA GERSHON

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the leadership of Dana Gershon, whose term as Board President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) comes to an end on June 30th. She has helped to navigate and grow the organization despite a tenure that coincided with COVID. She is a dedicated, tireless, and passionate advocate for women, children, and families who has represented the organization to world leaders including President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Dana has guided the organization through our Jewish values of b'tzelem Elohim, we are all created in G-d's image; kavod ha bri'ot, respect and dignity for all and tzedek tirdof, the pursuit of justice. These values inform her perspective, inspire her efforts, and drive her work to ensure everyone has the full range of health care, enough to eat, and a safe place to call home; in which we can all each achieve financial security while caring for our health and family; in which every young person is affirmed at school, gets unbiased information about their health, and is safe; that no matter who we are or where we are from, we all can access education, economic opportunities, and a court system committed to justice for all; and in which our democracy is strong and stable.

Dana has been a leader and trusted partner of mine, organizing grassroots advocacy efforts for critical legislative priorities, including the Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act, the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Package, the Immigrant Safety and Empowerment (WISE) Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Enhanced Background Checks Act, the assault weapons ban and countless other initiatives that would enhance equity and social justice.

Dana Gershon has been a social justice activist and leader in the Jewish community since high school. A graduate of Combined Jewish Philanthropy's (CJP) Acharai program, Dana held a number of leadership positions during the nearly twenty years that she and her family lived in Boston: she served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Rashi School (the Boston area Reform Jewish Day School) from 2010–2012 and was Co-Chair CJP's Boston-Haifa Connection. Dana was instrumental in the founding of Parents at the Center in Haifa, Israel, early intervention for underserved children and their families. She has been a Director on the national board of NCJW since 17, and is a member of the Executive Council of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Dana's work has been expansive and impactful and I thank her for her collaboration and best in her future endeavors.

**CONGRATULATING BEN F. KOLB  
MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR EARNING  
HISTORIC STATE AND NATIONAL  
RECOGNITION IN THE SCHOOLS  
TO WATCH PROGRAM**

**HON. PETE AGUILAR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben F. Kolb Middle School students, teachers and administrators by congratulating them on being nationally recognized in the Schools to Watch Program, Kolb Middle School, located in the City of Rialto, was one of 36 new California schools selected in the Schools to Watch program in 2023.

The Schools to Watch program recognizes schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence, foster positive school culture and support holistic student development. Schools chosen for this prestigious award are high-performing, model schools that demonstrate responsiveness to the needs of young students, social equity and exceptional academic performance.

Today, I offer my hearty congratulations to former Principal Armando Urteaga and his dedicated staff for their commitment to their students for not only developing a well-rounded academic curriculum, but also providing Social-Emotional Learning support. By ensuring their students develop healthy identities, learn how to manage their emotions and make responsible and caring decisions, Kolb Middle School has allowed Rialto students to thrive.

I'm incredibly proud of the hard work of our Kolb Cougars and celebrate the accomplishments of all the California schools recognized as Schools to Watch this year.

## HONORING PERRY MILLER

**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Perry Miller, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Airport Commission, which owns and operates the Richmond International Airport.

Perry is an airport executive with a distinguished career spanning three decades. He graduated from Texas Southern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Airway Science and a Master of Science degree in Transportation Planning and Management. Perry began his airport career with the Houston Airport System, where he spent 25 years serving in several capacities that are critical to the smooth functioning of our Nation's airports, including airport operations, maintenance, properties management, and business development. His positions there included Airport Manager of Ellington Airport, Airport Manager of William P. Hobby Airport, and Interim Manager of George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

In 2015, Perry became the Chief Operating Officer of the Jackson Municipal Airport Au-

thority in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2019, Virginia was fortunate to have Perry accept the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Airport Commission. In the four years since he has been there, Perry has successfully led the Richmond International Airport through the COVID crisis, has worked to increase the level of air service for the Capital Region, and has undertaken a comprehensive infrastructure program to meet our region's current and growing needs.

In recognition of Perry's distinguished career, his peers in the airport community previously elected him to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Airport Executives, the world's largest professional organization for airport executives. Founded in 1928, AAAE has 9,000 members from more than 800 airports.

Most recently, Perry became the Chair of AAAE, the highest volunteer leadership position within this prestigious national organization. Achieving this senior position is clear testimony to Perry's distinguished career in the airport community, the high regard his fellow airport executives have for him, his high level of professional achievement, and his dedication to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Perry Miller on this significant accomplishment. We are grateful for his many contributions to our Nation's aviation system and look forward to his continued contributions in the years ahead.

**EMPLOYER REPORTING  
IMPROVEMENT ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3801, the Employer Reporting Improvement Act.

This bill streamlines reporting requirements for small businesses when it comes to health insurance coverage information.

This bill will reduce administrative burdens and make it easier for businesses to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

More specifically, it permits employers to electronically file certain documents related to employees' health coverage if the employee has previously agreed to electronic statements.

The bill further streamlines reporting by allowing employers the option to use covered individuals' full name and date of birth if the employer is unable to collect the covered individuals' taxpayer identification number.

Currently, small businesses can be left in limbo by the IRS, sometimes for years, without knowing whether they correctly filed their health insurance coverage information.

The Employer Reporting Improvement Act reins in the IRS' ability to penalize American small businesses and gives them peace of mind that they won't be unfairly hit with a penalty.

Thanks to these streamlined procedures, small businesses will now have more time to focus on running their business, providing opportunities for their employees, expanding their business, and serving their customers.

In my home district of Houston, nearly 97 percent of the region's businesses are considered small businesses.

These small businesses employ 44 percent of the region's workforce, over 1.2 million employees across the city of Houston.

These small businesses continue to rise as over 150,000 new business applications were filed across Houston last year.

The city ranks 10th nationally in new businesses per capita and these businesses continue to drive the city's economic growth upwards.

Further, nearly 35 percent of these small businesses with 50 or fewer employees are minority-owned and Houston ranks 5th in the nation for minority entrepreneurship.

Small businesses are not only vital for Houston, but for our entire nation.

Across America, small businesses account for over fifty-nine million jobs, constituting nearly half of the national workforce.

Overall, they generate one third of all U.S. business revenue, approximately 13.7 trillion dollars annually.

This bill helps to relieve the burdens of complex paperwork and uncertainty on these small businesses and best equips them for success in Houston and across the nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3801 and in supporting small businesses by streamlining reporting processes.

#### HONORING COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

##### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colorado School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team for winning the 2022 NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championship.

This has been an exceptional season for the School of Mines' cross country program. They managed to achieve a record-setting victory, beating the second place team by 133 points—the largest margin in NCAA history. They were honored for this achievement at the White House following the close of the season, which was another first for the program. None of this would have been possible without Coach Chris Siemers. The School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team has flourished under his leadership. His efforts were also recognized by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association, who deservedly chose him for their National Coach of the Year Award.

It is my honor to congratulate the School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team for their success. I hope there will be many more championships to celebrate in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL U.S. METALCASTING WEEK

##### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of National U.S.

Metalcasting Week and to highlight the significant contributions made by the metalcasting industry to our nation's economy and security. Metalcasting, an essential manufacturing process, plays a pivotal role in various sectors, including aerospace, automotive, defense, agriculture, infrastructure, and many others. This week-long celebration provides us with a unique opportunity to recognize and appreciate the achievements of this vital industry.

Metalcasting is the process of pouring molten metal into a mold to create intricate shapes and components used in a wide range of applications. From the engine blocks that power our vehicles to the turbine blades that generate electricity, metalcasting is at the heart of modern industrial production. It enables the creation of complex and durable metal parts that are essential for countless industries, fostering innovation and progress.

One cannot understate the economic significance of the metalcasting industry. According to the American Foundry Society, metalcasting contributes over \$44 billion to the U.S. economy annually and employs over 200,000 skilled workers. These jobs are spread across the nation, supporting local economies and providing stability for communities. The industry's direct and indirect impact cannot be ignored, as it contributes to our nation's prosperity and competitiveness on the global stage.

Moreover, metalcasting plays a critical role in national security. Defense systems, such as tanks, aircraft carriers, and missile guidance systems, rely on the durability and precision of metalcast components. The industry's ability to produce advanced materials and components that meet the stringent requirements of our armed forces is essential for maintaining a strong national defense.

National U.S. Metalcasting Week serves as a platform to raise awareness about the technological advancements and environmental achievements of the industry. Over the years, metalcasters have embraced innovation and sustainability, adopting cleaner and more efficient processes. By reducing energy consumption, minimizing waste, and recycling materials, the industry is actively contributing to environmental preservation and sustainability goals.

Furthermore, Metalcasting Week provides an opportunity to showcase the critical role of education and workforce development in sustaining this industry's success. It allows us to celebrate the skills and craftsmanship of metalcasting professionals while inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in this field. By investing in training programs and promoting STEM education, we can ensure a pipeline of talented individuals to support the continued growth of the metalcasting industry.

National U.S. Metalcasting Week is a time to celebrate the achievements of an industry that is vital to our nation's economy, security, and technological progress. The contributions of the metalcasting industry are felt in numerous sectors and touch the lives of millions of Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and appreciating the dedication and excellence of metalcasters, not only in Indiana's Second District, but all across the United States.

#### HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF MR. ZEDDIE COLEY

##### HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th birthday of Mr. Zeddie Coley, a remarkable member of the OH-11 community.

Mr. Coley was born in Albany, Georgia in 1933 and graduated from Monroe High School in 1950. He earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1953 from Albany State College, where he also became a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. In 1974, he completed his master's degree in education from Cleveland State University. After receiving his formal education, Mr. Coley served in the United States Army.

Mr. Coley was married to Shirley Ann Jackson (1932–2019) for 68 years and together they have two daughters, Carma Coley (Warrensville Hts.) and Cynthia Coley-Anderson (Chicago), both retired teachers. He is the proud grandfather of five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Coley began his teaching career in 1955 in the Cleveland Public Schools system as a fourth-grade teacher at Wade Park Elementary. Moving forward, he continued his career in the East Cleveland City Schools as a science teacher, retiring as an administrator in 1984. He continues to maintain contact with many of the students he has taught throughout the years.

Since 1964, Mr. Coley has lived in the Lee-Harvard Community. There, he served as an active member of the Harvard Community Services Center, a member of their Board of Trustees for 27 years and as president of the Walden Avenue Street Club for 30 years. In addition, he served as an Education Association Committee Chairperson. During his tenure, he was active in hiring several principals in the Lee-Harvard area schools and spearheaded the track and field stadium renovation committee for John F. Kennedy High School. Mr. Coley has received numerous honors—Harvard Community Services Center's Lifetime Achievement Award, Senior of the Year for Ward 1, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Black Diamonds Award, John F. Kennedy's Community Volunteer Award, and the Neighborhood Leadership Award, to name a few.

He has been an active member of the East Zion Baptist Church for over 60 years. As an avid gardener, he takes pride in harvesting vegetables to share with his neighbors. When asked what he loves most about Cleveland, he says, "Cleveland gave me my wife, which makes me love it the most."

Happy birthday to Mr. Coley.

#### STEVEN HELMICK

##### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steven Helmick of Donald R. Roberts Elementary in Little Rock for being named the 2023 Arkansas Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Mr. Helmick is known for his outgoing personality and willingness to do whatever it takes to inspire his students, including running a mile for each of the 168 fifth graders in his elementary school, and camping out on the school's roof.

Steven Helmick has turned Roberts Elementary into one of the highest achieving elementary schools in Arkansas, receiving a grade of A from the state education leadership.

I congratulate Mr. Helmick on his well-deserved award and the outstanding work as Principal of Roberts Elementary.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CHARLES R. WOOTEN

**HON. ERIC BURLISON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Chuck Wooten. Mr. Wooten recently passed away at the age of 95, having dedicated his life and career to public service and giving back to his community. A U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II, Mr. Wooten served with honor and distinction overseas in Japan. His patriotism and love for his country were evident in every aspect of his life, and his military service exemplified his unwavering dedication to defending the principles upon which this nation was built.

In addition to Mr. Wooten's service to our nation in World War II, he also served as a Missouri State Representative for 5 terms, as well as a City Councilman for Springfield. During his time in the state legislature, Mr. Wooten played a critical role in the creation of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery located in my hometown of Springfield, Missouri. The Veterans Cemetery would not be a reality without Chuck Wooten.

Additionally, Mr. Wooten's many talents carried over to his career as a talk radio host on the legendary KWTO radio station in Springfield. He is survived by his wife Joan; his three children Johnnie, Donnie, and Mary, and daughter-in-law, Carole Wooten; also 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Mr. Wooten is described by those who knew him well as an upbeat, always positive, kind, and generous man who would give you the shirt off his back. I can't think of a more deserving man to honor and recognize today.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation was unable to attend session on June 22, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 284, YEA on Roll Call No. 285, and YEA on Roll Call No. 286.

#### PAPERWORK BURDEN REDUCTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3797, the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act.

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative process for providing individuals with certain health insurance coverage statements.

H.R. 3797 allows American workers to access health insurance tax forms online, rather than mailing this form in excess to American households.

While only 1.4 percent of American workers and their families need this form, it gets mailed to millions each year, wasting taxpayer resources, and creating more work for small businesses.

This bill recognizes that more Americans than ever fill out their tax returns online and allows them to access this health insurance tax form online as well.

This bill saves small businesses owners time and money by relieving them of mailing excess copies of outdated paperwork.

As a result, small businesses will now have more time to focus on running their business, providing opportunities for their employees, expanding their business, and serving their customers.

In my home district of Houston, nearly 97 percent of the region's businesses are considered small businesses.

These small businesses employ 44 percent of the region's workforce, over 1.2 million employees across the city of Houston.

These small businesses continue to rise as over 150,000 new business applications were filed across Houston last year.

The city ranks 10th nationally in new businesses per capita and these businesses continue to drive the city's economic growth upwards.

Further, nearly 35 percent of these small businesses with 50 or fewer employees are minority-owned and Houston ranks 5th in the nation for minority entrepreneurship.

Small businesses are not only vital for Houston, but for our entire Nation.

Across America, small businesses account for over fifty-nine million jobs, constituting nearly half of the national workforce.

Overall, they generate one third of all U.S. business revenue, approximately 13.7 trillion dollars annually.

This bill relieves the burden of outdated paperwork on these small businesses and best equips them for success in Houston and nationwide.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3797, the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act, and the economic growth of our Nation, which is fueled by small businesses.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI- VERSARY OF COLSTRIP, MON- TANA

**HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the centennial celebration of the town of Colstrip, Montana's energy capital. Colstrip is surrounded by beautiful open rangeland, farms, and ranches, but what has made this community truly remarkable is the Rosebud mine, which is responsible for much of the area's prosperity. This incredible facility serves as a crucial part of Montana's economy and energy sector. Since its establishment, the mine has not only powered Montana's economy but also provided reliable energy to the entire globe.

Colstrip was first founded by employees of the Northern Pacific Railway in 1924 to provide Americans with affordable and reliable coal to power their homes and businesses. During the Second World War, the mine was strategically important to America's war effort. Thanks to the work of the men and women of Colstrip, the Allies successfully defeated their enemies and defended freedom across the entire world.

I want to commend the people of Colstrip for their dedicated work to ensure the continuation of this vital part of Montana's economy and for contributing so much to our state's culture. Colstrip's tight-knit community has powered America for over 100 years, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for this model community. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the entire Colstrip community for their commitment to America, and it is a privilege to celebrate the mine's anniversary in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### HONORING THE U.S. ARMY'S 54TH COAST ARTILLERY REGIMENT

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the soldiers who served during World War II in the United States Army's 54th Coast Artillery Regiment. The 54th was the U.S. Army's only all-Black heavy artillery regiment and it shared the mission of defending the central coast of California from enemy attack.

This historic regiment defended the Golden Gate Bridge, the San Francisco Harbor, and Monterey Bay, in addition to the millions of tons of cargo and munitions coming out of the port. Further down the coastline, the 54th defended coastal oil terminals at Morro Bay and Port San Luis. The Monterey Bay was particularly vulnerable to Japanese invasion due to its gently inclining shoreline and ready access to a major coastal highway.

Activated at Camp Wallace, Texas on February 10, 1941, the 54th was comprised of Black soldiers from Texas, Kansas, and Missouri. Despite that these troops were armed and clothed with used weapons and second-hand uniforms dating to World War I, they did not complain and served with pride and distinction.

After completing their training at Fort Fisher in late February of 1942, the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion of the Regiment were ordered to Fort Cronkhite in San Francisco, California. Until April of 1944, these two battalions rotated along the Central Coast shoreline batteries and manned the coastal artillery weapons at Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove shortly after Pearl Harbor Attack on December 7, 1941.

Additionally, many soldiers of the 54th were former Negro Baseball League players. While stationed in Pacific Grove, the soldiers formed a community baseball league. They named it the Twilight League because all the lights in the seaside town were turned off at sunset for increased security from the Japanese.

On April 19, 1944, the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion were relieved from duty on the Western Defense Command as the threat of Japanese attacks on the West Coast diminished.

Although they have since disbanded, the legacy and influence of the 54th Regiment lives on in the memory of our Central Coast communities. Many troops returned to the Central Coast after the Allied Powers emerged victorious and were active, integral members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the U.S. Army's 54th Coast Artillery Regiment in honor of their lasting impact on the Central Coast and our Nation's history. We are forever grateful for their service and bravery in World War II and in the defense of our coastline. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

#### CELEBRATING THE BONANZA CASINO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2023, the Bonanza Casino in Reno will celebrate its 50th anniversary. In anticipation of this major milestone, I would like to highlight the contributions this family operated business brings to our community and recognize the leadership of one of its original owners and current partner, Russ Sheltra.

The Bonanza Casino is one of Northern Nevada's most successful gaming properties, but its beginnings were quite humble.

As a student at the University of Nevada, Russ Sheltra worked at the local Food King. After graduating with a degree in business, Russ bought the Food King with no formal contract—just an agreement etched out on the back of a napkin. Russ turned the Food King into his V&T Market.

In 1973, he made the decision to transform the V&T Market into the Bonanza Casino when another supermarket was built across the street. The casino thrived, quickly becoming a favorite for locals. Today, the casino has nearly 400 slot machines and two successful restaurants.

Russ's son, Ryan, now works alongside his father in the family business. Both Russ and Ryan believe in the importance of giving back to the community that has given them so much.

For the past 22 years, the Bonanza Casino has provided multiple \$1,500 college scholar-

ships to graduating students at North Valleys High School.

Additionally, the Bonanza Casino supports the mission of the Prostate Cancer Foundation by hosting the "Cruisin' for the Cure" car show, a fundraiser to raise money for prostate cancer research. To date, the Sheltra family and Bonanza Casino has donated over \$165,000 to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, as the Bonanza Casino celebrates its 50th year of operations, I want to thank Russ Sheltra for his lifetime of commitment to Northern Nevada, and this Nation. His ingenuity and dedication serves as an inspiration to us all.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF KAYE T. GOOLSBY

#### HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy but grateful heart, I rise to recognize the life of Kaye Goolsby. Kaye was not only a political giant in the state of Texas; she was also a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and dear friend to so many, including me.

One of my first supporters, Kaye helped propel me to public service, and she always inspired me to be the best representative I could be for the people of Texas. Originally from Louisiana, she and her family moved to Katy, Texas, in 1977, where they have lived for more than 45 years. And Kaye certainly earned her title as a Texan, holding dozens of leadership roles in the state and helping to advance many Texans to prominent government positions. In 2011, she was honored as one of the Top Ten Republican Women in Texas. Kaye also faithfully supported her local school district, Katy ISD, and selflessly served at First United Methodist Church.

There simply aren't enough words to describe Kaye's contribution to her community, the state of Texas, and our country. No matter what new task she took on, she remained grounded by an unwavering belief in the importance of freedom, faith, and family.

She will be deeply missed by her husband of 48 years, Gary Goolsby, her son Greg and his wife Christie, and her grandchildren, Preston and Avery.

The last words I said to her were, "I love you, Kaye." The fact is: Everyone she touched loved her as well. While we mourn this tremendous loss, we also take comfort in knowing her impact will live on for generations.

#### RETIREMENT OF DARLA SIDLES, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT

#### HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and retirement of Darla Sidles, the first female Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park.

For the last seven years, Darla has been in charge of managing and supervising all oper-

ations within Rocky Mountain National Park—the Nation's fourth busiest national park—an area I am lucky to represent in the United States Congress. Rocky Mountain National Park surpassed 4 million visitors for the first time the year before she took over, and it has exceeded 4 million almost every year since.

Darla has helped Rocky Mountain National Park navigate unprecedented challenges like record levels of visitors, the global pandemic forcing a closure of the park in 2020, and then another closure of the park that same year as a result of Colorado's two largest wildfires ripping through Rocky Mountain and burning about 10 percent of the park. Through it all she remained dedicated to improving and protecting our treasured public lands.

Darla has served at the National Park Service for 34 successful years. She has been a trusted and valued partner to my office and to the Town of Estes Park. We are sad to see Darla go, but wish her a happy retirement.

#### CELEBRATING ROB STOKER

#### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of the president of the Building Trades Council of Alameda County and longtime member of Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 104 (Local 104), Rob Stoker, on the occasion of his retirement after over 30 years of service on Saturday, July 1, 2023.

A lifelong resident of the Bay Area, Rob grew up in Castro Valley and graduated from Castro Valley High School in 1982. Rob's career in sheet metal began when his father, Wayne, signed him up for a class at Laney Community College. Upon completing his sheet metal apprenticeship in 1989, Rob began working at the Monterey Mechanical Company in Oakland, moving his way up from a journeyman to a division manager.

Rob is a proud Local 104 member. He has served as a part-time instructor for the union's apprenticeship programs and as Local 104's executive board officer. Rob was elected as Local 104's union business representative in 2006, where he found his passion for recruiting future unionized sheet metal workers.

Rob has remained a fierce advocate for all trade workers throughout the Bay Area in his roles as Local 104's political and public relations director and then eventually assumed the role of president of the Building Trades Council of Alameda County. He has negotiated countless project labor agreements, including with large Bay Area municipalities, major transit agencies, federal government bodies, and nonprofit agencies.

More specifically, Rob's advocacy efforts helped pass CA Assembly Bill 841 in 2020, creating the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program providing funds for schools to test and assess HVAC systems and supporting unionized labor.

For over 30 years, Rob has dedicated his career to the industry and the men and women that work within it. He has remained an integral part of the building trade community in the Bay Area, and I am sure he will be missed at both Local 104 and the Building Trades Council of Alameda County. I wish him

well-deserved rest and relaxation, filled with quality time with Christine, his wife of 34 years, and his children Will, Lane, and Natalie as he enters this new chapter.

UNITED STATES-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON 21ST-CENTURY TRADE FIRST AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4004, the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act.

This bill expresses the approval of Congress for the June 1, 2023, agreement regarding trade between the United States and Taiwan.

The bill also imposes requirements on the negotiations of certain further trade agreements between the United States and Taiwan.

The bill also imposes requirements on the negotiation of further agreements under the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, such as requiring the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to:

(1) share any U.S. negotiating texts with Congress prior to sharing the text with Taiwan or any parties outside of the executive branch.

(2) share any negotiating texts from Taiwan within three days of receipt, and

(3) provide daily briefings to certain Members of Congress during negotiating rounds.

A further agreement shall not take effect unless

(1) the President, at least 60 days before entering into the further agreement, makes the text publicly available on a USTR website; and

(2) a bill is enacted into law expressly approving the further agreement.

The United States and Taiwan signed a first agreement under the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, announced in June 2022.

The initial 2022 agreement aimed to streamline customs procedures, help smaller businesses navigate the regulatory procedures in both markets, and prevent corruption.

This agreement is not a formal free-trade agreement that regulates tariffs, but rather aims to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan trade ties amid heightened tensions.

Taiwan and the United States have maintained commercial ties since 1979.

Although the United States does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, we maintain a strong unofficial relationship that must continue, and H.R. 4004 will allow the United States to do such that.

REVEREND DR. PAULSON RAJ SANGALA: A TESTAMENT TO FAITH, RESILIENCE, AND SERVICE

**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today. I am privileged to rise in this esteemed

chamber to speak about a man of incredible faith, resilience, and dedication, the Reverend Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala. Born on March 7, 1973, in the humble village of Bheemaram, Telangana State, India, Dr. Sangala's life is a testament to overcoming adversities and committing oneself to a life of service.

The son of a mason and a school attendant, Dr. Sangala grew up amidst financial challenges after his family lost their wealth due to his grandfather's alcohol addiction. Despite these hardships, his spiritual zeal led him to regular Bible study and prayer. His faith would be tested further when he lost his father at a young age, taking on the family burden as the eldest son. When a mysterious illness left him bedridden, Dr. Sangala found solace in his faith, and it was this faith that carried him through his healing and ultimately led him to his calling.

In 1991, Dr. Sangala began his ministry in a small hut following a vision he received during prayer and fasting. Starting with one woman receiving healing from cancer, the ministry steadily grew, bringing the Gospel and the healing power of Jesus Christ to many. This was the beginning of a remarkable journey that would see Dr. Sangala overcome opposition and adversity to serve his community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, the culmination of Dr. Sangala's journey is the Christ Jyoti Church, inaugurated recently in a grand ceremony attended by pastors and devotees from all over the world. Built on 11 acres of land and capable of hosting an impressive 40,000 people, the Church, with its vast prayer hall and four towers named Moses, David, Peter, and Dr. Paul, is a testament to Dr. Sangala's vision, faith, and years of dedication.

Beyond the grandeur of the Church, Dr. Sangala's work in his community is truly astounding. His organization runs a Bible College and operates 500 churches in different cities and villages. It has commissioned over a thousand pastors for the ministry, prepared a thousand prayer warriors for continuous offering of prayers, and provides spiritual comfort and guidance to thousands through various prayer services, gospel meetings, and media outreach.

Dr. Sangala's life journey serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of faith and service. His story shines brightly as a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration, demonstrating how adversities can be converted into opportunities for serving others. His extraordinary path from a small village in India to the founding of a Church that serves thousands testifies to his unwavering faith, unyielding dedication, and his steadfast commitment to his divine calling.

As we stand here in this chamber, dedicated to service and leadership, let the story of Dr. Sangala remind us of the profound impact that unwavering faith, resilience, and dedication to service can have on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, may we carry his spirit of service, resilience, and dedication in our hearts as we continue to serve our constituents and our great Nation.

NEW RISE OF ASSAD

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, recently, Syrian President Bashar Al Assad was invited back into the Arab League after 12 years of being in exile.

I can't tell you how incredibly frustrating and disappointing this is to many, particularly the innocent people of Syria who have endured more than a decade of war, murder, and torture.

Assad's readmittance to the Arab League sends the wrong signal.

It sends the signal to the rest of the world that his atrocious war crimes against his own citizens over the past twelve years are acceptable.

A recent Reuters article had the headline Arabs bring Syria's Assad back into the fold, but want actions, action on the drug trade.

Well that's rich, because the only reason there is an epidemic in the drug trade in the Gulf and the region, is because of Assad.

Assad turned Russia and Iran to maintain his death machine, and now the Captagon drug trade, led by his cousins, led by his military, providing an independent source of funding for his regime while he poisons his neighbors and takes their money and fuels terrorism in the region.

And yet he's invited back to the Arab League meeting.

It's preposterous.

My bill that passed last year's National Defense Authorization Act was called the Captagon Act and requires the U.S. Government to develop a multilateral and all of government approach to disrupting and dismantling the production of the Captagon drug right in the heart of Syria.

Recently, the Treasury Department along with our ally the United Kingdom, took steps to sanction key actors in Assad's inner circle who are producing and trafficking Captagon.

This is a good step, but it's months late Mr. Speaker

It's in the right direction of disrupting and dismantling the trafficking networks associated with this illicit drug.

But it's just a good start, and it comes years after we know the deadly impact of Captagon in the region, on families, but also fueling of terror by Assad through the billions of dollars transferred from that illicit trafficking.

So it's critical that governments across the globe to continue to show their support for the Syrian people by denouncing those who seek to normalize relations with the repulsive regime, granting Assad admittance to the Arab League once again sends the opposite message, it rewards barbaric behavior.

The United States government has an obligation to sanction Assad in our efforts to dismantle the Captagon drug trade and hold Assad accountable for his war crimes.

And that's why I'm pleased this week to co-sponsor the Middle East Subcommittee Chairman JOE WILSON's new bill H.R. 2302, The Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act.

This bill was passed this week unanimously in the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Congress will act where this administration has continuously failed to consistently do so.

I look forward to supporting this bill on the House floor and seeing it signed into law.

**RECOGNIZING A CIVIL RIGHTS  
AND GRASSROOTS ICON, REV-  
EREND MARIE GALATAS ORTIZ,  
A PROMINENT MATRIARCH IN  
THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz, Louisiana's Matriarch in the Civil Rights Movement locally and across the country. Marie Galatas Ortiz, born in New Orleans in 1939, became increasingly involved in the Civil Rights Movement after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When Ortiz reflected on how she felt following the passing of Dr. King, she said "I just said I'm going to get so active, I'm going to help keep his work going on . . . They can't stop us!"

Ortiz furthered her commitment to the Civil Rights Movement by founding the nonprofit organization Grass Roots Organization for Women (GROW) in 1975. The organization started in New Orleans, located at 1610 Basin Street, and participated in many demonstrations, marches, and boycotts. Ortiz wanted an organization that encouraged women to serve in their communities and further the movement through peaceful protests, rallies, and street marches. GROW challenged the traditional patriarchal social systems that prevented women from participating in leadership roles. Reverend Ortiz took on the challenge of fighting for anti-crime, including rape treatment and prevention, when no one was advocating for these victims and speaking out against these atrocities.

Ortiz was a force in the later years of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1976, she led demonstrations for the family of Stanley Magee who suspiciously passed away while in custody. The protest and subsequent march over Stanley Magee's death began at the 22nd Judicial Courthouse and included many African American residents of St. Tammany and Washington Parishes. It was one of the largest demonstrations ever held in Covington. Ortiz explained that some of the more difficult and passionate Civil Rights cases, especially those involving racially motivated deaths and violence, were passed on to her organization from the NAACP. "It was GROW that did the work," Ortiz said. Ortiz remains politically active today.

Her most recent work was taking down monuments dedicated to Confederate leaders in New Orleans. In December 2015, the City Council of New Orleans voted 6 to 1 to take down three Confederate statues: those of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Gen. Robert E. Lee, and Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. In January 2016, a federal judge dismissed an attempt by preservation groups and a chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to stop their removal. Reverend Ortiz remained committed, fighting to the end, assuring every statue was removed!

Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz is also the president and pastor of New Creation Christian Church, founded over 35 years ago,

where she continues her spiritual mission of working closely with women and underserved communities. She is also the president of Broadway Rehabilitation and Economic Development & Jobs Skills Academy, Inc., an organization assisting formerly incarcerated people and marginalized groups to develop training to join the workforce.

I am so blessed to have this opportunity to acknowledge a true Matriarch of Civil Rights. My prayer is that she continues her fight assuring a successful and bright future for all men and women. God Bless Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz on her continued path blessing our great community.

**SUPPORTING HILLSBOROUGH  
COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT  
COURT**

**HON. LAUREL M. LEE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court and the volunteers who are the heart of this program.

Hillsborough County is proud to be home to Florida's largest population of veterans—nearly 94,000 veterans. Hillsborough is also home to the number one Veterans Treatment Court in the country.

One in five veterans has a diagnosed mental illness or cognitive impairment, and one in six veterans has a substance abuse problem. In some cases, upon returning home, these men and women commit a criminal offense that is directly attributed to a service or combat-related injury.

The Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court, in addition to its Mentor Program run entirely by volunteers, integrates alcohol and drug treatment programs, mental health services, and justice system case processing, while focusing on the successful reintegration of veterans back into their communities.

I'd like to not only recognize but extend a sincere thank you to the wonderful volunteers who have had a hand in getting our veterans the care they require and deserve.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF IRA  
SHARP**

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Ira Sharp, who passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2023. He is survived by his wife Rose Ann Sharp, daughter Elizabeth Sharp, son Andrew Sharp, daughter-in-law Carine Harambillet Sharp, grandson Samuel Sharp as well as his sisters, Jacqueline Schroeder, Barbara Jensen, and Sally Harman, as well as their families.

Mr. Sharp received a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis before earning a J.D. at Columbia Law School. After law school, Mr. Sharp became a practicing attorney before moving to D.C. to take over a

then struggling family business. For the next two and a half decades, Mr. Sharp would use his expertise and perseverance to transform the company into a thriving business, later selling it to a Fortune 1000 company.

As a resident of the California 49th Congressional District, Mr. Sharp was an active member of the community. He was appointed to the San Diego County Civil Service Commission as well as sat on several Del Mar City Council committees and the Del Mar School District Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. Additionally, Mr. Sharp contributed to the Del Mar Foundation, the Rancho Santa Fe Democratic Club, and the Chairmen's Round-Table, a group that provides mentorship to businesses in San Diego County.

Mr. Sharp's true passion was advocacy for gun violence prevention. Following the Parkland Shooting in February of 2018 and the birth of his grandchild, Mr. Sharp along with his wife Rose Ann Sharp founded NeverAgainCA. Mr. Sharp then went on to create SafeStorageCA in 2019, where he brought together elected officials and gun violence prevention groups. The impact of Mr. Sharp's work can be seen in the passage of AB 452, which requires California public school districts to send students home with information about the importance of safe firearm storage, as well as the passage of AB 893 and SB 264, which ban the sale of firearms and ammunition at the Del Mar and Orange County Fairgrounds.

More recently, Mr. Sharp spent time as a board member for the Brady Campaign, a national nonprofit whose mission is to ensure that every community is safe from the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

Ira Sharp's tireless advocacy is a reminder of the immense impact an individual can have on their community and the importance of collaborating with others to make our community a safer place. It has been an honor to celebrate Ira Sharp's remarkable life and his success which continues to inspire.

**RECOGNIZING MIKE FLANNERY  
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
JOURNALISM**

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Mike Flannery's distinguished career as a political reporter in Illinois and to congratulate him on his well-earned upcoming retirement from Fox 32-Chicago. For decades, Illinois residents have relied on Mr. Flannery's sharp analysis to make sense of top political stories. Through his weekly television program, "Flannery Fired Up," Illinois residents have come to trust Mr. Flannery as a voice of insight, fairness, and integrity.

Mr. Flannery grew up in Washington D.C. in a family that understood the importance of public service and its demands. His father, a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient, imparted on Mr. Flannery a sense of patriotism and a desire to find a career that benefited others. Despite financial hardships, Mr. Flannery won a scholarship to attend Georgetown University, where he discovered a passion for journalism and became editor of the



university's newspaper. Through his coursework, he became fascinated by the unique political culture of Chicago and Mayor Richard J. Daley's administration.

After graduation, Mr. Flannery moved to Chicago and began his career in journalism covering politics and labor for the Chicago Sun Times. He built a reputation for integrity at a time when political corruption was a powerful force in Chicago politics. When Mr. Flannery transitioned to TV and joined WBBM-Channel 2 as Political Editor in 1980, he brought his unique sensibility into viewer's living rooms.

Over the course of Mr. Flannery's 50-year career, he has covered the administrations of ten Chicago mayors and eight Illinois governors with extraordinary insight and accuracy. Mr. Flannery's TV program has become a central stage for political discussion in Chicago, drawing countless elected officials and experts. His sharp questioning held powerful officials to account and provided context for the week's news for his loyal viewers. Behind the scenes, Mr. Flannery has been just as tireless in his pursuit of the facts, engaging regularly with community leaders and experts, even chasing politicians—sometimes literally—as he did when he jogged after former Illinois Governor Rob Blagojevich in 2010. Both on and off the air, Mr. Flannery has a record of relentlessly pursuing the truth on behalf of greater Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I extend immense gratitude to Mike Flannery for his invaluable contributions to political reporting, and I wish him well in his retirement. His dedication to the public service of informing Illinoisans on the issues facing our state is commendable and he leaves behind a legacy of excellence in journalism.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 503, IMPEACHING JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, impeachment is serious, yet here we are engaged in a baseless political stunt to impeach our current President.

It is not a punishment, sought to be inflicted when one branch of government merely dislikes what a coordinate branch has done.

It is a serious remedy designed to prevent abuses of power and is designed to ensure that ours remains a government of, by, and for the people.

The Constitution governs the order of our nation, and it dictates the work of the Congress.

Article I details the powers of the House and the exercising of these powers as they relate to the coordinate, coequal branches of government, codified in Articles II and Articles III: three equal branches of government coexisting and cohesively working to provide oversight to the respective actions of the Congress, the Executive and Judiciary.

This has worked, with challenges of course, since 1789, yet the outright abuse of our Con-

stitution to use impeachment as a political tool is an abomination of our congressional duties.

This impeachment resolution is centered on accusations that the Biden Administration lacks appropriate security at the Southern U.S. border.

The resolution of impeachment specifically states that President Biden's conduct and dereliction of duty in these matters "warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States."

This accusation, that the President of the United States has abused his powers and that his conduct is in dereliction of his duties as President is flatly outrageous.

When the Framers of our Constitution designed our government, they bifurcated power between the federal and state governments, and divided among the branches.

They vested in the Congress the capacity to make the laws, and in the Executive the power to faithfully execute those laws.

Because the House enjoyed a natural superiority, as most representative of the passions of the populace, the Framers vested in the House of Representatives the sole power of impeachment and made the Senate the judges.

Entirely unlike the incredulous and now confirmed illegality of President Trump's behavior while in office, the President Biden has certainly not earned the same stain of impeachment from the House of Representatives and whereby his conduct absolutely does not merit conviction and removal from office by the Senate.

When the Founders inserted the Impeachment Clause in Article I, Section 2, Clause 5, they did so to preserve our democracy, protect the American people, and to prevent the abuses and excesses of the Chief Executive.

The Constitution has served our nation well for over two hundred years.

In order to keep faith with the Framers and with our future, we must preserve, protect and defend that Constitution and all its provisions.

This is why this impeachment attempt is not one that is within the national interest but a disgrace to our government and its entrusted duties.

I ask colleagues to vote no on this shameful resolution.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
NASSER ABOUKHALIL

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Nasser AbouKhalil.

Throughout his life, Nasser has shown his commitment to supporting patients and providing a space for advocacy and healing in the community. Nasser was born in Tyr, Lebanon and graduated from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. He opened the Alamo Pharmacy in 1987. In 1997, he opened the Oak Grove Pharmacy in Concord, California where it remains a staple in our community.

Through his work, Nasser practices compassionate care and comprehensive support.

He believes in not only ensuring that patients have the appropriate medications, but also offering individualized health care advice and cost-effective alternatives. Nasser also takes pride in mentoring aspiring health care professionals in the pharmacy, providing them real-world experience to prepare them as they enter the medical field and work to serve their communities.

In addition to his professional work, Nasser is also an advocate for the Lebanese community in the Bay Area where he volunteers with the Lebanese American Association.

Please join me in recognizing Nasser AbouKhalil for his leadership and invaluable contributions to our community.

IN MEMORY OF NAVAJO NATION  
PRESIDENT BEN SHELLEY

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize former Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, who passed away on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, leaving his wife Mrs. Martha Shelly, five adult children, 12 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. The President and Mrs. Shelly were married for 57 years.

President Shelly's public service spanned numerous decades and positions. During his 16 years on the Navajo Nation Council, he rose to the esteemed position of Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. From 2007 to 2011, he served as Vice President of the Navajo Nation. On January 11, 2011, Shelly became the eighth President of the Navajo Nation, a position he held for four years. In fact, he was the first elected Vice President to ascend to President as well. President Shelly's service extended beyond Navajo Nation as a McKinley County Commissioner.

As President, Shelly was a steadfast supporter of self-determination and self-sufficiency for Indian Country. He and the Navajo Nation worked with Congress to secure approval of the Navajo Nation General Leasing Act to provide the Nation with leasing authority over tribal land. President Shelly also fostered economic development to bring prosperity to Navajo communities. In President Shelly's final testimony to Congress, he advocated for Gallup Indian Medical Center to become a "trauma one" level facility status. This would provide the highest level of care to our many tribal communities.

President Shelly was born on the Arizona-New Mexico border of Tsé'tah Si'ani, Lupton, Arizona. He lived most of his life in Thoreau, New Mexico, in the third congressional district. He never stopped working to support the people of the Navajo Nation. His accomplishments and legacy will live on for generations to come. May we all honor President Ben Shelly's incredible life and his deep commitment to serving the beloved communities of the Navajo Nation.



RECOGNIZING SARA KATHERINE  
BOWEN

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my Communications Director, Sara Katherine Bowen, for her service to Kentucky's Second District.

The Georgia native joined my office in December 2020. A proud graduate of the University of Georgia, she began her career in Congressman Buddy Carter's office before serving as press secretary for the Energy and Commerce Committee. S.K. has proven to be an extremely valuable member of my team by clearly communicating what is happening in the halls of Congress with my constituents. S.K. has worked on many projects, with one of the biggest being the communications for the Healthy Futures Task Force—part of the House Republicans' Commitment to America. I am grateful for all her hard work behind the scenes to make sure Kentuckians' priorities were included in the blueprint for how the People's House would operate under a New Majority.

I want to thank S.K. Bowen for her work serving Kentucky's Second District as my Communications Director and I wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life, moving closer to Kentucky's Second District as she continues her education pursuing her Masters of Business Administration at Vanderbilt University.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Numbers 144, 235, 238, 239, and 240. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER  
SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Asian-American Community of Metropolitan Chicago in welcoming Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to the United States of America to address a Joint Session of Congress on June 22, 2023.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF BARRON INDUSTRIES  
OF OXFORD

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2023*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Barron Industries of Oxford, Michigan.

Founded in 1923, Barron Industries has led a remarkable journey. Family-owned and operated since its beginning, this esteemed company has remained committed to delivering excellence, innovation, and quality.

100 years ago, Barron Industries began as a comparatively small foundry producing 60-ton sand castings and even hand-delivering other orders to customers like Henry Ford. But now, this company maintains a sterling reputation as a manufacturer of precision aerospace, defense, automotive, oil and gas, nuclear, and medical components which are shipped and used worldwide.

For decades, Barron Industries has built an impressive track record in countless industries, and they have done so here in our community. Since 1983, they have been a vital employer, innovator, and contributor to the Oxford area.

With the promise of quality and product integrity, this company has cemented its name as a trusted manufacturer by many other leading industries, all the while remaining family-owned and operated since its founding. Their commitment to precision, innovation, and their community truly embodies the sense of responsible American entrepreneurship that has driven our Nation forward for centuries.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Barron Industries of Oxford on their centennial celebration. Here's to another century of accomplishments, growth, and continued success both in our community and throughout the world.

CONDEMNING THE USE OF ELE-  
MENTARY AND SECONDARY  
SCHOOL FACILITIES TO PROVIDE  
SHELTER FOR ALIENS WHO ARE  
NOT ADMITTED TO THE UNITED  
STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 461, condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States.

This bill is an absurd measure to condemn the facilities of a public elementary or secondary school that serves students to provides shelter for non-U.S. nationals who are not admitted into the United States.

I believe that a comprehensive approach is needed to solving the current immigration crisis.

However, using the facilities of a public elementary or secondary school to provides shel-

ter for non-U.S. nationals who are not admitted into the United States should not be politicized, as this is humanitarian issue and failure of our broken immigration system.

As a Member on the Homeland Security committee, and more specifically the Border Security and Enforcement subcommittee, I interact with those at the border and migrants frequently.

As such, I think it is essential that migrants are brought and allowed into the country through legal immigration.

I am a strong proponent of humanitarian aid efforts in the immigration context, from preventing the breakup of individual families as a result of a wrongful deportation to ensuring that victims of civil wars and national disasters around the globe receive a temporary protected status under the U.S. immigration laws.

We should not condemn the use of public elementary or secondary schools provide shelter for non-U.S. nationals who are not admitted into the United States.

I acknowledge that school are places of learning and development for students, but there are time periods when school campuses are not being used, such as during school breaks.

Because of this, the space could be used for humanitarian aid purposes, such as allowing migrants to stay there while they wait for legal processing and paperwork to conclude.

Other exceptions need to be reviewed, such as whether migrants could stay at schools when school is in-session, but humanitarian aid should not be overlooked in the immigration context.

As a leading country on the global stage, it is our duty and responsibility to assist who we can in a legal manner.

More importantly when it comes to schools in America, we should be addressing critical issues that are truly impacting our educational system—namely, the hostile state takeovers of majority-minority school districts—as is what is happening in my district with the Texas Education Agency takeover of the Houston Independent School District.

State takeovers in other districts have led to school closures, layoffs, and no improvements in test scores.

The vast majority of school districts that have been taken over by state agencies (TEA included) have not improved but declined.

With data ranging back to the late 1980s, researchers found that most state takeovers don't translate to academic improvements.

We have to stop the State from intermeddling and overstepping into our educational systems—causing further harm and damage to our communities.

That is why I have called upon President Biden and the Department of Education, to investigate and take immediate action to address the recent systematic and dangerous efforts underway by state and local officials in Texas seeking to undermine and undo decades of civil rights protections and advancements in educational institutions and student populations.

And so, I am here today to say that these are the issues that the American people truly care about and want us to be fighting for, for the protection and preservation of their educational rights.