

and for their leadership in returning our Committee to its long-standing traditions of bipartisanship and collaboration—as exemplified in the Chairmanships of the gentleman from Pennsylvania's father, the former Chairman Shuster, as well as the late-Chairman of this Committee, Chairman Oberstar.

These former Committee leaders knew that a successful outcome can only come from the valuable input from Members on both sides of the aisle, from constructive negotiation, and from mutual respect. That is what we have seen return to this Committee under our current Chairman, and if the final vote tally for this Conference report is as I expect, then this bill ought to serve as a model for how this Congress conducts the American people's business.

Today is also a monumental day, because while this bill is about many things, most importantly, it is about job creation—not only those good construction jobs that will come with the authorization of 34 Chiefs Reports contained in the bill, but also the jobs that rely on a robust network of large and small ports and inland waterways to move goods throughout the United States.

I am especially pleased that this Conference report provides a reasonable path forward to the challenges facing the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

This legislation provides that, within 10 years, 100 percent of the fund proceeds are used for their intended purposes—harbor maintenance—while ensuring that any increase in harbor maintenance does not come at the expense of other critical Corps' programs. I am also thankful that this conference report recognizes the critical importance of our Nation's small ports to our regional and local economies in establishing future funding priorities.

Unfortunately, we could not solve all of the financial challenges facing the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, or the Inland Waterways Trust Fund. That will have to come from continued Congressional attention and future legislative efforts. However, today is a good first step in addressing the most pressing challenges facing each of these funds, and should be supported.

Mr. Speaker, today is also a monumental day because this new WRRDA creates a reasonable and workable process, developed by this chamber, to address the ongoing navigation, flood damage reduction, and environmental restoration challenges facing each of our Congressional districts. For the past few years, this Congress has, unfortunately, ceded our constitutional and representative duties to the Executive branch in deciding what is in the best interests of our Congressional districts. This Conference report rightly restores our Congressional discretion in establishing these priorities, as well as the balance between the Congress and the Executive branch in meeting the local challenges of our districts.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, today is a monumental day because, at long last, this WRRDA restores the Federal commitment to our other remaining water infrastructure challenges—our failing sewage and drinking water infrastructure.

First, this Conference Report includes legislation that has eluded this Congress for almost three decades—the reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. For decades, this critical, and widely-popular program

has been the leading source of Federal funding to States and communities to address their ongoing water quality challenges. Today, we recommit to this program, and provide additional tools to our States and to our communities to address local water quality challenges in a flexible, cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable manner. I am pleased that much of this language is modeled after legislation (H.R. 1877) that I have introduced over the last few Congresses, and thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their willingness to include this language in the Conference Report.

Finally, this Conference report adopts a modified version of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (or WIFIA) that was approved by the other body. Many of the modifications made to this authority were to address a concern that I had raised about the potential impact of this new authority on the existing Clean Water SRF program. I am confident that these modifications send a clear message of Congressional support for both the existing SRF program, as well as for testing this new WIFIA pilot program, and commit that our Committee will need to revisit this issue in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased at the progress we have made together on improving water infrastructure in the United States. Again, I thank the leadership of our Chairman and our Ranking Member for getting us to this point today.

I urge my colleagues to support the Conference Report to H.R. 3080.

HONORING THETA PHI SIGMA
CHRISTIAN SORORITY, INC.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, since 2009, Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority, Inc., has been and continues to be a worthy instrument for good; and

Whereas, the 2014 "Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority, Inc., Proverbs Alpha Kingdom Celebration Weekend," is being held this year in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority, Inc., was founded by Dr. Jessica Martin, in Montgomery, Alabama, to promote Christian standards, values and the creative and artistic ideals of the modern woman; and

Whereas, its members give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community through projects such as voter registration, health walks, mentorships and scholarships; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the leadership and service given by the ladies of Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority, Inc., our nation and the world is a better place due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize their outstanding service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim January 18, 2014 as Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority, Inc., Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 18th day of January, 2014.

HONORING REVEREND CLAUDE E.
WILSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Reverend Claude E. Wilson. Known as a prominent leader in our community and as a devoted husband, father and friend, Reverend Wilson has left an indelible mark on our community. With his passing on May 9, 2014, we look to Reverend Wilson's personal legacy of spiritual service, the joy he inspired and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on June 11, 1932 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Reverend Wilson moved to Seattle, Washington with his family at the age of eight. After graduating from Simpson College in San Francisco in 1956, Reverend Wilson went to pursue his Master's degree at the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley. He obtained a Masters of Religious Education and a Masters of Divinity. In 1980, Reverend Wilson completed his Doctor of Ministry at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley.

Throughout the 1960s, Reverend Claude Wilson served as a minister of Christian education and assistant to the pastor at McGee Avenue Baptist Church. In 1969, he became the pastor at Havenscourt Community Church, where he served his community for over 44 years. In addition, Reverend Wilson instructed at different institutes and universities, including the Bible Fellowship Institute, Fuller Seminary, and he was a Professor of Pastoral Care for Patten University.

Among Reverend Wilson's many accomplishments, he was also an active community leader and organizer. He served as the President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of the East Bay, one of the oldest Black ministerial alliances in Northern California. Reverend Wilson also served as the President of the Northern California Council of Churches. In addition, he was a member of Pastors of Oakland and Love Fellowship of Churches, and was the Intern Chaplain at San Quentin Prison.

Reverend Claude Wilson has left a lasting imprint on our society and communities of faith. Reverend Wilson dedicated more than half of his life to ministry and will be remembered for his wisdom and compassion. In recognition for all of his achievements, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Monrovia, Liberia naming a building after him: The Doctor Claude E. Wilson Academy.

On a personal note, I will always remember the confidence Reverend Wilson had in me when he endorsed me during my first campaign in 1989 for the California Assembly. He encouraged me and helped me win election after election. I was so proud to list him on my literature as a supporter. More importantly, however, I was proud to call him my friend. Reverend Wilson's smile, his kind words and his prayers reassured me to keep fighting the good fight. He was always there for me and for that, I am forever grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding community leader and individual, Reverend Claude

E. Wilson. His dedication and efforts have impacted so many lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Claude's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
DOROTHY HOLMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Chief Master Sergeant Dorothy Holmes for her service to our country.

Chief Holmes served in the United States Air Force from May 1949 to May 1979. During her distinguished career, she was assigned to numerous locations worldwide, including Europe, Puerto Rico, two tours in Asia and several posts throughout the United States. Chief Holmes was assigned to the United States Air Force Academy in 1976, specifically to serve as a role model and mentor for the first class of female cadets. She distinguished herself by being the first female Chief Master Sergeant assigned to the Air Force Academy.

Chief Holmes was the first African American woman in the United States Air Force to achieve the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, and she was the first woman to retire with 30 years continuous service.

Through her courageous service, Chief Holmes charted the path for future generations of women to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Chief Master Sergeant Dorothy Holmes for her dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 220 on H.R. 3080—"To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes." I am not recorded because I was absent due to a district issue. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 221 on H.R. 3530—"Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act," I am not recorded because I was absent due to a district issue. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 222 on H.R. 4225—"Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation (SAVE) Act of 2014," I am not recorded because I was absent due to a district issue. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE NEW CRJ900 BOMBARDIER/AMERICAN AIRLINES PARTNERSHIP

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a new plane debuted in the skies above Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport. From the outside it may have resembled other aircraft you've seen, on the inside this state-of-the-art bird offers passengers a better travel experience, with more leg room, bigger overhead bins, and a brighter cabin.

This plane is the CRJ900 NextGen aircraft, a new regional jet built by Bombardier, the world's only manufacturer of both planes and trains. American Airlines will be the first carrier to fly these aircraft, and will begin adding them to their fleet next month.

American Airlines has been an operator of Bombardier's CRJ family of aircraft for a long time. And though we are all familiar with American, our DFW-based airline, you may not be as familiar with Bombardier who also has strong presence in our hometown.

Bombardier employs more than 8,500 people in the U.S., whether at their manufacturing facilities that build aircraft and rail equipment for both domestic and export markets, at their network of service centers that maintain the products they build, or at their flight test, engineering and training centers that are an extension of their core manufacturing operations.

Bombardier has four facilities in the North Texas area alone, including two in the 24th district: Bombardier built and currently operates the Skylink automated people mover at DFW, the free system that swiftly connects passengers to all five airport terminals. Bombardier also has a pilot and technician training facility at DFW, which I had the pleasure to visit last year, where six full-sized, state-of-the-art aircraft simulators train pilots and maintenance technicians on Bombardier aircraft. Pilots and technicians from around the world come to this training facility in my district.

Bombardier is a key employer in the 24th district, and I am excited for American to be the first to take delivery of this sophisticated new regional jet. I congratulate them both on this partnership and look forward to flying on the new CRJ900 in the near future.

HONORING THE GENESIS PHILANTHROPY GROUP

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Genesis Philanthropy Group (GPG) and their mission to develop programs focused on ensuring that Jewish culture, heritage, and values are preserved in Jewish communities throughout the world.

This year, this organization is honoring Michael Bloomberg on his selection as the inaugural Genesis Prize Laureate. The goal of the Genesis Prize, awarded by the Genesis Philanthropy Group, is to instill in the younger generations of the Jewish Diaspora a sense of

belonging—both to a collective future and to a collective past. This \$1 million award is endowed by the Genesis Philanthropy group and is annually presented by the Prime Minister of Israel to an individual who has attained excellence and international renown in their chosen professional field, and whose actions and achievements embody the character of the Jewish people. This award is the result of a unique partnership between the Israeli Prime Minister's office, the Genesis Philanthropy Group, and the Office of the Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The Jewish people have celebrated and relied on the strength of their shared identity throughout history. In today's society there is an increasing emphasis on finding a "global identity", and technology has allowed people to be interconnected in new and fascinating ways. However, it is important to remember the past, and for younger generations to reaffirm their Jewish identity and assert pride in their Jewish heritage by highlighting the inherent Jewish values that inspire the laureates' achievements.

Mr. Speaker, let us stand by the Genesis Philanthropy Group and its important mission of advancing and celebrating Jewish peoplehood.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT: GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation to end the misguided freeze on public health research about firearm safety and gun violence.

For too long, this Congress has put political talking points ahead of real solutions, and our country is a more dangerous place because of it. Every day, 32 Americans are murdered with guns, and a recent study conducted by researchers at New York University's Langone Medical Center and St. Luke's Medical Center found the U.S. has the highest rate of gun-related deaths among a group of 27 developed countries, including four times higher than Canada.

Because of past riders on Appropriations legislation, federal funding for gun violence research came to a halt in the mid-1990s. As a result policymakers and community leaders lack the authoritative public health research they need to address the horrifying persistence of gun violence.

The bill I introduce today, with companion legislation introduced by Senator MARKEY, would right this wrong and authorize \$10 million in annual funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through Fiscal Year 2020. This funding will allow the CDC to begin the research agenda outlined in a report issued last year by the Institutes of Medicine to identify areas in need of study to better understand the underlying causes of gun violence and best implement strategies for prevention.

We know that public health research can save lives and prevent tragedies. For example, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration funds research to make our roads