

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