

board member for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and is a member of the State of California AARP Livable Communities Committee.

Chief Swanger and his wife, Lora, have three children: Matt, Cameron, and Hayley. I am grateful for Chief Guy Swanger's dedicated service, and wish him great luck and joy in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF PROTECTING FEDERAL AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act, which would require an act of Congress before any federal agency headquarters may be moved out of the National Capital Region (NCR). My bill would require that the headquarters of any agency located in the NCR on the date of the introduction of this bill remain in the NCR absent subsequent legislation. This bill is cosponsored by Representatives ANTHONY BROWN and JAMIE RASKIN.

The Trump administration has already begun moving agencies out of the NCR to the detriment of federal employees, their families and the work of these agencies. Employees who work in agency headquarters fulfill the indispensable role of keeping Congress and the president informed of agency activities. Congress cannot do its work to write laws and engage in vital oversight without the unvarnished facts that nonpartisan agencies provide. In fact, we have already seen the negative impacts of these relocation efforts. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced that it will be moving its headquarters staff to Grand Junction, Colorado, where agency staff will share office space with a Chevron corporate office, a state oil and gas association and an independent natural gas exploration company.

As for the Department of Agriculture's relocation efforts, two-thirds of impacted highly specialized employees will not relocate to Kansas City, retiring early or quitting instead. Preliminary reports suggest similarly low retention rates for BLM staffers asked to relocate west. While agency leadership touts these moves as cost effective, the work of the agency suffers when experienced personnel leave and relocation efforts appear to favor special interests.

Unless measures like the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act are taken to stop agencies from relocating, the federal government will lose more employees and agencies will be unable to perform critical tasks, like assisting Congress in vital oversight.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was on official business in my district (LA-03). Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 541; nay on Roll Call No. 542; nay on Roll Call No. 543; yea on Roll Call No. 544; yea on Roll Call No. 545; nay on Roll Call No. 546; nay on Roll Call No. 547; yea on Roll Call No. 548; nay on Roll Call No. 549; nay on Roll Call No. 550; yea on Roll Call No. 551; nay on Roll Call No. 552; nay on Roll Call No. 553; yea on Roll Call No. 554; and nay on Roll Call No. 555.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call vote 548, I was in the Chamber but was unable to execute my vote. I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 548.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on September 27, 2019, I was not able to cast my votes during the vote series due to personal matters in Michigan. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: "aye" on Roll Call No. 555: H. Res. 603—Raising a question of the privileges of the House; "yea" on Roll Call No. 554: H.R. 3722—the Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 553: S.J. Res. 54—A joint resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

HONORING THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SPRING FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Spring Fire Department, a public safety agency that has come a long way in its 66-year history, but never so much as in the past decade.

For the first few decades, local residents and businesses passed the hat, and volunteers manned the donated and frequently pre-owned, equipment.

As Spring has evolved from a rural railroad stop into a Houston suburb, the fire department has grown alongside the community. In 1997, Spring Fire began employing profes-

sional firefighters to supplement their volunteers during the daytime hours.

Meeting the expectations of a rapidly growing population is a challenge they meet every day. Six of Spring's nine fire stations were built this decade. Station 74 is the last of the new stations to open for service.

Every day, the men and women of the Spring Fire Department provide fire suppression, emergency medical response, and more to over 152,000 people in 62 square miles of northern Harris County.

From a fire department where volunteers heard the siren and rushed to a station to pick up a fire engine, Spring has evolved into a combination department that staffs all its nine stations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Today, the department has a mix of full-time, part-time and volunteer firefighters to answer the calls. With a fleet of over two dozen pieces of fire and rescue apparatus, along with more than a dozen support vehicles, Spring firefighters respond to fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and highwater rescues.

Built to withstand strong hurricane-force winds, the new Station 74 is already home to an engine and a tanker. Designed with the future in mind, Station 74 will be able to house more fire equipment, an additional crew, and a District Chief in the years to come.

The new Spring Fire Station 74 is a testament to the commitment of the department, their command staff, and the board of Harris County Emergency Services District Number 7 to serve Spring today and in the future.

It is my honor to be part of the Spring Fire Station 74 Grand Opening Celebration on October 5. May God bless these crews putting their lives on the line for this community every day, and may God continue to bless Texas and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, my votes were not recorded on September 27, 2019. I am not recorded because I had to attend to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 553, "yea" on Roll Call No. 554, and "yea" on Roll Call No. 555.

CONGRATULATING PASTOR JIM GRAFF AND TAMARA GRAFF ON FAITH FAMILY CHURCH'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Jim and Tamara Graff for their over 30 years of serving Faith Family Church.

Faith Family Church began with humble origins as a home Bible Study. In 1989—after favor and growth from the Lord—Faith Family Church called Pastor Jim and Tamara Graff to

the Pastorate with a vision to build a Luke 14 church where people could find help, hope, and a family. On Easter Sunday 1998, Faith Family Church dedicated a new sanctuary and ministry campus with a vision to be: "A Church with a heart for all people" that would "Not see through people but help see people through."

Faith Family Church has provided Christ-centered education to equip people for a better life through Faith Academy, Destiny Bible Institute, Celebrate Recovery and hundreds of classes, workshops, and community small groups weekly. Their vision to encourage, empower, and equip overlooked churches in overlooked places has led to the development of the Significant Church Network. Their heart to further the reach of the Gospel led them to open campuses in Hallettsville and Gonzales, Texas.

The people of Faith Family provide help and assistance to the surrounding community through efforts including: Passion Week projects, Backpack outreach, Toys for Tots, Sidewalk Sunday School, Adopt-a-block, and Prison Ministry. Faith Family served as a temporary shelter in 2005 for those fleeing Hurricane Katrina and, in 2017, was a central point to coordinate relief efforts following Hurricane Harvey.

Their commitment to underserved and unreached populations across the world has built 19 Bible Schools, planted 526 churches, supported orphanages in Guatemala, and delivered aid to other parts of the world. Constructed in India, The House of Psalms 1 & 2 rescues girls from sex-trafficking, giving them an education and a new way of life.

President George Washington acknowledged that "religion and morality are indispensable supports" of our nation. For 30 years, Pastor Jim has committed himself to the study and sharing of Scripture, the building up of believers, and the leadership, guidance, and ministry to the staff and people of Faith Family Church. The fruit of his labor has strengthened the moral fabric here in our community and in communities around the world.

I would like to personally congratulate Pastors Jim and Tamara Graff and the people of Faith Family Church for 30 years of faithful ministry together sharing the love of Christ with their community, our nation, and the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WEDDING OF PETER JONES AND JENNIFER HOLCOMB

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter Jones and Jennifer Holcomb on their remarkable partnership and to wish them well on a lifetime of marriage.

Peter and Jennifer were wed in a beautiful ceremony on July 20th, 2019 in Taos, New Mexico. Surrounded by friends and family, their intimate wedding symbolizes their deep commitment to one another and their future life together.

Their union is the beginning of another journey, as Peter and Jen share an adventurous spirit and a drive to explore the world. With a

loving home that includes their two canines Indy and Bear, they begin their married life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Peter Jones and Jennifer Holcomb for embarking on a new chapter in their lives and wishing them well on their journey together.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JEFFREY JEWELL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressmen MIKE THOMPSON, JERRY MCNERNEY, JOHN GARAMENDI, and ERIC SWALWELL to recognize the service of long-time community advocate and veteran, Jeffrey Jewell.

Jeff's commitment to service was apparent throughout his life and career. Upon graduating high school, Jeff enlisted in the Air Force. While stationed in Japan, he taught English to Japanese businessmen and volunteered for Big Brothers, Scouting Leadership, and the Suicide Hotline. After his service, Jeff earned his bachelor's degree in human relations and Master's in Public Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He also later received a Master's in Psychology from Chapman University.

Jeff applied his education and experience in the armed services to aid veterans in the Bay Area. In 1991, he started as a volunteer with veteran organizations in Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Jeff was the past commander in Vacaville of the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, United Veterans Memorial Association, and past chairman of the Vacaville Veterans Building Association.

In 2001, Jeff began working for the Department of Veterans Affairs Concord Veterans Center as a therapist for combat veterans and for families that lost loved ones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jeff also served on the Department of Veterans Affairs National Homeless Veterans Working Group and helped veterans find housing and integrate back into society. Jeff became the Director of the Sacramento Veterans Center in March 2010 and returned to the Concord Vet Center a few years later to serve as Director.

Jeff has given so much back to veterans across the country and in Contra Costa County—something our community is incredibly grateful for. I join with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, JERRY MCNERNEY, JOHN GARAMENDI, and ERIC SWALWELL in thanking Jeff for his sacrifices for our nation and wishing him great luck and joy in retirement.

HONORING QUAKER SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH ON THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Quaker Springs Methodist Church on their 175th Anniversary.

This historic church has been a cornerstone of the Quaker Springs community for generations. While the exact date that the original church was constructed is unknown, the incorporation of the Methodist Church in Quaker Springs occurred in November of 1843. The trustees of the church began constructing a new church shortly thereafter, nearby the original, on land purchased in 1842 for fifty dollars. Even today, the great, great grandchildren of some of the original congregation still worship there regularly. The deeply historic and tightly woven fabric of our communities is what makes the North Country so unique and special.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate the trustees and congregation of Quaker Springs Methodist Church for reaching another historic milestone. I wish them well and look forward to their continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on September 26, 2019 due to travel. Had I been present, I would have voted: "nay" on Roll Call No. 549; "nay" on Roll Call No. 550; "yea" on Roll Call No. 551; "nay" on Roll Call No. 552; "yea" on Roll Call No. 553; "yea" on Roll Call No. 554; and "nay" on Roll Call No. 555.

HONORING THE PASSING OF PATRICIA GEIB

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Patricia Geib of Palmyra, Pennsylvania who sadly passed away this week after her third battle with cancer.

Patricia was an incredible spirit whose life touched countless others. She was a devoted employee of the H.B. Reese Candy Co. for many years and would keep working at the Hotel Hershey even after her retirement. She was a dedicated community member whose spirit could never be broken. Patricia faced three bouts with cancer with her characteristic courage and optimism. She never stopped inspiring and caring for the people she loved.

Her life was filled with joy from family, friends, and faith and she will surely be missed by all who knew her. Patricia is survived by a loving family including her husband, Daniel W. Geib of Palmyra; daughter, Danielle Geib, brother, David Burke, stepsons, Andrew (Amy) and Geoff Geib; her grandchildren, Alyssa, Alexis, Aiden and Ashton Geib and her nephew Michael Barley. I ask that the House of Representatives, on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth District, join me and her family in remembering the life of Patricia Geib.