INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COVID–19 DEBT RELIEF EXTENSION ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, the small business loan debt relief provision, as passed in the CARES Act, has expired with money still left in the fund. As we all know, small businesses have greatly suffered due to the COVID–19 pandemic. According to a recent Washington Post article, one in five small businesses have closed this year, with many more expected. For the small businesses that remain open, the SBA loan debt forgiveness has proven to be a lifeline. The SBA has paid 6 months of principal, interest, and any associated fees that borrowers owe for all current 7(a), 504, and Microloans, as well as new 7(a), 504, and Microloans.

The COVID–19 pandemic is putting extraordinary strain on our smallest businesses—the very businesses who are the backbone of our economy. Small businesses have taken the biggest hits and need continued direct relief during this unprecedented time. That's why I have been fighting to provide relief through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), and the SBA debt relief program. These programs have proven to be effective to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic, however, small businesses continue to need our support and we must not turn our backs on them.

Local economies are re-opening, but an expected second COVID–19 wave means small business owners will face additional uncertainties and burdens in the coming months. That is why I am introducing the Small Business Debt Relief Extension Act to offer small business owners up to a 6-month extension on the debt relief they are receiving on their 7(a), 504, and Microloans. Additionally, my bill ensures that the entirety of the $17,000,000,000 appropriated to this program in the CARES Act be used for its intended purpose. The bill accomplishes this in two ways:

Businesses who are currently receiving or have (over the past 6 months) received the subsidy be granted a 6-month extension for a total of 12 months of debt relief; and Businesses who do not currently have a SBA loan and that apply up to March 30, 2021, receive a 6 month subsidy.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Small Business Debt Relief Extension Act.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BRYAN, TEXAS

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100 year anniversary of The Rotary Club of Bryan, Texas.

Originally chartered in 1921, with only twenty-five founders; today, the club has grown to include a membership of approximately 150 people from all areas of Brazos County. The Bryan Rotary Club is passionately dedicated to its mission to ''provide service to others; promote integrity; and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.''

From the beginning, the Bryan Rotary Club has had a broad membership from the twin cities of Bryan and College Station, bringing together a service-oriented mix of business and local professionals, as well as faculty and administrators from Texas A&M University.

Some notable events hosted by the club include its annual golf tournament, an annual beans and rice dinner, and the annual Newman 10 awards, which recognize the significant community contributions of Brazos Valley businesses.

In addition to celebrating local businesses, the Club is committed to supporting cultural activities, such as the Opera and Performing Arts Society Series, funding of the Bryan Heritage Society and Stage Center, as well as the club's very own ''Singing Club.''

Madam Speaker, the Rotary Club of Bryan has had a significant and positive impact on the Brazos Valley during its 100-year history. Throughout this time, the club has grown considerably, and it has never forgotten its strong commitment to community service.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize this significant milestone and their contributions to our community.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect our security and liberties, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING C.T. WRIGHT

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dr. C.T. Wright, who passed away in October 2020. A longtime resident of Arizona, Dr. Wright was a community leader, pastor, and criminal justice advocate. He was the embodiment of the American Dream and devoted his life to preaching unity and making Arizona a better place for all. From his work as chairman of the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency to his civic and religious pursuits, Dr. Wright was a force for good and his enduring legacy is his love for Arizona.

Born in Social Circle, Georgia, Dr. Wright lived many lives as a day laborer in the Georgia cotton fields, scholar, elementary school teacher, college professor, university president, and leader in criminal justice reform. Through all of this, he learned firsthand the value of persistence, open-mindedness and hard work—and how crucial they are in building better communities. These lessons refined his character and took him around the world.

After working in Africa, Dr. Wright decided to bring his message of unity and civility to Arizona, a place he called ''the greatest state on the planet.'' His voice would often echo through the chamber and halls of the Arizona State Senate, in rooms of state GOP meetings and into the stands at campaign rallies when he delivered passionate prayers to members of a nation he saw as greatly divided—but not beyond repair. Throughout his years here, Dr. Wright quickly became a landmark member and advocate for Arizona's African-American community and earned his place as a delegate in political conventions, a member of the Arizona Electoral College, the Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board, chairman of the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency and many other honors.

After being appointed to the Board of Executive Clemency in May 2014, Dr. Wright helped give a second chance to inmates and their families through compassionate early releases. It was one of many positions Dr. Wright used to bridge the gap between faith and politics and help everyday Arizonans and political leaders make environments that encourage inclusivity, understanding and progress. Dr. Wright wasn't afraid to be outspoken but was reluctant of recognition. He wanted his work to speak for itself, and it has. His impact on his community was commemorated with the Congressional Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

As he leaves us, we should remember that he leaves us with lessons to act on and words to live by, ''Behold how good and how pleasant it is together, together in unity.'' I thank Dr. Wright for his life's work, and Godspeed.

HONORING COMMANDER THOMAS KOEPPE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commander Thomas Koeppe for his exemplary dedication to his community, and to mark his retirement from the Hercules Police Department after more than 27 years of committed service.

Originally from El Cerrito, California, Commander Koeppe began his service as a police officer for the city of Hercules in 1993. Since joining the force, Commander Koeppe has risen through the ranks of the Hercules Police Department, serving as a Training Officer, Special Response Officer, and Police Sergeant before becoming a Police Commander in 2012. In 2018, he also briefly served as Acting Police Chief, leading the department during a time of transition.

Commander Koeppe has consistently earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the public, and has been recognized countless times for his service to his community. In 1995, he was awarded the Medal of Valor for arresting a dangerous individual after a long and dangerous car chase. He also led his department in driving under the influence (DUI) arrests and was honored by both the department and Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his efforts to curtail the dangers of drunk driving. His dedication to the city is non-stop, as evident by the fact that he has received the Iron 96 award, given to those who do not use any sick leave, for 20 consecutive years.

Commander Koeppe is not only an esteemed member of the police department, but he also plays an active role in his community.