before joining the local Sanger newspaper as editor. He remained as editor for the Sanger Herald until his retirement in 2019. Dick also served his country in the U.S. Army Security Agency and the U.S. Navy Reserve in Dinuba. He enjoyed spending time with fellow veterans at the Sanger Post 7168 Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Sanger Post 98 AMVETS.

Renowned for his volunteer work and community involvement, Dick's legacy will not soon be forgotten. He organized an annual golf tournament fundraiser as a Golden Valley Girl Scout Council Board Member, conducted career preparation seminars for Workforce Connection, and served as a Family Self Sufficiency Board Member to help struggling families achieve economic independence. Dick was involved in several other organizations serving the Sanger and Fresno area communities: the Kiwanis Club of Dinuba, the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Fresno, the Rotary Club of the Fresno Airport, the Rotary Club in Sanger, the Sanger Unified School District Classified Employees Personnel Commission, the Sanger High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, the Sanger Veterans Parade Committee, and the Fresno Radio Advisory Committee.

Dick was awarded several recognitions during his lifetime including the American Legion Medal for Character, the Sanger Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame, the Gold Seal award for community service presented by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce, and several journalism awards. Beloved by the Sanger community, Dick was also honored as the Grand Marshal for both the Sanger Veterans Parade and Sanger Christmas Parade in 2019.

Dick is survived by his wife Nadine; their children Mark, Cassandra and her husband Jack, and Christopher and his wife Petra; and stepson Michael and his wife Jessica. Dick is also survived by nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Richard ''Dick'' Franklin Sheppard. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

CHIEF GREEN 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. BROWN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the one-year anniversary of Chief Tiffany Green, Chief of Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department. In November 2018, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks made history as the first African American woman elected to lead a county government in Maryland. Upon Prince George's County's Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale's announced retirement, County Executive Alsobrooks appointed Chief Green who became the First African American Woman to lead a fire department in the history of the State of Maryland and only the 9th African American Woman to hold the position of fire chief in the United States of America. She inherited a department with a call volume of 152,000, a total of 638 pieces of apparatus (including command and support vehicles) with 266 specifically outfitted for fire suppression, rescue, or emergency transport.

Tiffany D. Green, a native Prince Georgian, began her career as a firefighter with the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department in March of 1999, after serving as a volunteer for the Oxon Hill Volunteer Fire Department for four years. As an almost 26-year fire services veteran, Tiffany holds dual bachelor's degrees in Public Safety and Biology and a master's degree in Emergency and Disaster Management. Climbing up the ranks, she has served in the following capacities prior to her role as a Command Staff member: Firefighter, Paramedic, Station Commander, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety, Chief of Staff for the Director of Homeland Security, Special Events Coordinator and Stadium Commander for Fed Ex field.

As Deputy Fire Chief she was responsible for Human Resources, Fiscal Affairs, Information Management, Risk Management and the Office of Service Excellence, Accreditation & Research. As Director of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Training and Leadership Academy, her primary responsibilities were training and professional development for over 900 sworn personnel and 1,200 volunteer members of the department. She also managed the High School Fire Science (Cadet) Program, a program for high school students who are interested in working in the Fire Services profession.

On January 15, 2020, Chief Green's nomination was unanimously approved following a review of her exemplary over 20 years of service, her impressive record and support from many public safety and government officials.

Chief Green made history as Prince George's County's first woman, first dual fire fighter/paramedic and youngest fire chief. County Executive Alsobrooks, in her nomination, made sure to emphasize Green's wealth of experience and high ranking on each and every promotional exam—the lieutenant's test, the captain's exam, and battalion chief's exam. According to County Executive Alsobrooks, Chief Green is far and away the most qualified person to lead the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department at this time.

According to Chief Green, her decision to serve her community as a volunteer fire fighter ''changed the trajectory of [her] life.'' She recognizes the women whose shoulders she is standing on today. ''Pioneers'' like Maureen Hennessy, Angela Peden and the late Carla Blue who gave Chief Green their Keys to Success. And, Chief Green has vowed to ''lead this department forward, to continue to be accountable, professional and community-centered.''

Her leadership of the 1,062 Sworn and 1,500 volunteers has already proven to be a success on a national level. The Congressional Fire Services Institute and National Fallen Firefighters Foundation selected the Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department as the combination fire department recipient of the 2020 Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award, named in honor of the late former Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes. The award recognizes fire departments and organizations for leadership in advancing firefighter health and safety, who have developed important health and safety programs for their personnel that are based on the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives established at the 2004 Tampa Summit.

Congratulations to Chief Green on this momentous occasion, and much appreciation to her husband Alfred, and daughter Talore, for sharing her with Prince Georges County.

EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE AND STRENGTHEN MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague, Chairman RICHARD NEAL for his tireless work on the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 and for providing retirement income security for pension recipients in endangered, critical or critical and declining status multiemployer pension plans.

In Kansas, thousands of retirees currently receive pensions through the Central States Plan and they face a crisis—a severe reduction in retirement income through no fault of their own.

Without the direct relief provided in this legislation, the Central States Pension Fund would have become insolvent in 2026 and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation would have to reduce 360,000 participants' pensions to pennies. This is unacceptable. As Chairman NEAL is all too aware, many of the participants of Central States are frontline workers who have served our country tirelessly and fearlessly in the face of the pandemic.

The present structure of these plans is unsustainable and in need of reform.

Without modernization of these plans and addressing employer liabilities, I am concerned that multiemployer pension plans and their retirees will certainly face similar circumstances in the future and require additional federal funds. This much needed relief to the plans is designed to forestall insolvency leaving important work that must follow. I believe we must seize this opportunity to reform these plans and take insolvency off the table.

I understand the Chairman is committed to working with me to modernize and strengthen multiemployer pension plans with the intent of bringing a reform package to the floor in this Congress. Could the Chairman confirm that is the case?

EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE AND STRENGTHEN MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, too many workers in this nation reach retirement age without the savings they need. The retirement crisis in America is real and will only worsen unless we make saving easier and do more to encourage workers to begin planning for retirement earlier. And that's why I've committed as the

Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee to addressing this crisis.

For example, about 50 percent of American workers work for an employer that does not offer a retirement plan at work. To make a significant dent in this coverage gap, it's critical that we enact legislation that requires employers that don't currently offer a retirement plan to at a minimum provide their employees with an auto IRA option.

I'm also pleased that the American Rescue Plan Act includes the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021, which would create a special financial assistance program under which cash payments would be made by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to financially troubled multiemployer pension plans to ensure that such plans can continue paying retirees' benefits for the next 30 years.

What we have here is a national emergency that we need to address immediately. If Congress doesn't act, the multiemployer pension system could collapse entirely, leaving retirees in poverty, businesses in bankruptcy, and communities in crisis.

Reform for both the multiemployer and single employer retirement plan system is a priority for the Ways and Means committee and we plan on addressing these issues this year.

I commit to working with Ms. DAVIDS on this as we move forward.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS RELATED TO COVID–19

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, it has been over a year since we have seen continued COVID–19 related threats and attacks against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. As millions across our nation continue to be impacted by the coronavirus, many continue to live in fear following the dramatic increase of threats and attacks against those of Asian descent. Recently, we have seen further escalation of horrific incidences of elderly AAPIs assaulted—resulting in even death.

Due to perpetuating anti-Asian rhetoric, misinformation, racism, discrimination, and unfounded blame for the spread of COVID–19, there has been over 3,000 reported incidents of anti-Asian hate crimes, including AAPIs being threatened, harassed, or assaulted, or having had their businesses vandalized. Just recently, in my district of Flushing, New York, a 52-year-old Asian woman was attacked and forcefully shoved while waiting in line outside of a bakery—resulting in her needing ten stitches on her head. Additionally, a 61-year-old Filipino man was viciously attacked and slashed across his face on a New York City subway.

It breaks my heart that, for over a year, in the midst of the COVID–19 crisis, Asian Americans have been left fighting an additional front—that of hate and bigotry.

That is why I am reintroducing my resolution condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID–19. This resolution denounces the anti-Asian sentiment and recognizes the safety and well-being of all Americans during these unprecedented times.

Madam Speaker, I was proud that in the last Congress, the House passed this resolution 243 to 164. However, in light of the recent dramatic increase of anti-Asian hate incidents across our country, we must coalesce and renew our efforts to condemn all manifestations of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-Asian sentiment and scapegoating. We must denounce any and all anti-Asian sentiment of any form.

Madam Speaker, the House must remain strong, and stand against the sickening intolerance, bigotry, and violence that is leaving a terrible stain on our nation's history, especially during this moment of an unprecedented public health crisis. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to keep all Americans safe.

HONORING GARY CREED

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Gary Creed of Shawsville, Virginia, who passed away on January 28, 2021 at the age of 74. Gary was a member of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for several terms who worked hard for the people of the county.

Gary was the son of Melvin Lewis and Ada Mae Moore Creed. He was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2001 as the representative of District C. He promoted the Meadowbrook Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library and the Meadowbrook Community Center, supported first responders, and successfully pushed to reduce the merchants capital tax, a move that eased a burden on local businesses without depriving the county of revenue. Gary served as Chairman of the Board in 2004. He retired in 2017. In the town of Elliston, part of District C, a park currently under construction has been named after him in honor of his service.

Gary was a longtime employee at the Shelor Motor Mile auto dealership and had also worked as an auctioneer and real estate developer. He loved the sport of basketball and coached Amateur Athletic Union girls basketball.

Gary is survived by his wife, Linda Creed; son Tim Creed and wife Barbara; daughter Niki Shumate and husband John; brothers Wilford Creed and Clyde Creed; sister Elizabeth Brammer; granddaughters Bridgette Bradley and husband James, Karalee Boggess and husband Mark, Karli Shumate, and Lauryn Shumate; and great-grandchildren Jaxon, Jacob, Holt, Boone, and Allie. I offer them my condolences on their loss. Our system of government depends on citizens such as Gary Creed, who take on the tasks of local government in order to improve their communities.

RECOGNIZING DINA CHACON-REITZEL

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge this year's winner of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association's King Service award, Dina Chacon-Reitzel. This award is given to New Mexicans that have exhibited long standing dedication to the state's agricultural industry and those who work within it. Born into the agricultural life, Dina grew up on a cattle ranch that has been in her family for hundreds of years. She has spent most of her career with the New Mexico Beef Council, where she fought to protect the cattle industry and pioneered implementations of consumer information programs, as well as additional research within the beef industry.

Dina's advocacy spans from local entities, where she is involved with the New Mexico 4–H Foundation, all the way to the Federal government. She currently braves the Washington bureaucracy to advocate for the New Mexico State University College of ACES, where she serves as a citizen advocate for the USDA Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching.

This is not the first time Dina's efforts have been recognized. As a chairwoman on the New Mexico State University's Board of Regents she was awarded the New Mexico Outstanding Leadership Award for significant leadership towards agriculture. She was also given the Friend of Extension Award and was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award by the New Mexico State University. She was also recognized by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture with the Industry Partner Award.

Dina have exhibited the upmost dedication and leadership to the state of New Mexico and its agricultural industry, and I congratulate her on this award.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MELVIN BANKS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the life and works of Dr. Melvin Banks, the founder of Urban Ministries, Incorporated. A prodigious soul, by the age of 12, Dr. Banks was already spreading the word of the gospel throughout his native state of Alabama, sharing stories of the Bible with younger children. It was when he was preaching in Birmingham that Dr. Banks heard a verse from the Book of Hosea that would change his life ''My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.'' Hearing this verse caused Dr. Banks to even further dedicate himself to spreading the gospel across the country and the world.

Dr. Banks' study of the Bible would take him to Chicago's Moody Bible Institute, where he was one of the institution's few Black students, graduating in 1955. However, Dr. Banks' education as a Christian in Chicago would not revolve solely around the classroom. At the urging of a chapel speaker, Dr. Banks visited a Brethren church on the city's South Side. This experience led him to the vital realization that he didn't need to diminish his blackness to live the fullest Christian life that he could. There, Dr. Banks would also meet and marry Olive Perkins, who would remain his partner throughout his life. He then continued his theological education in the Chicagoland area