

SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FLAG
MARITIME FLEET**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, today I want to highlight the importance of the U.S. flag maritime fleet to our economic and national security. While only two percent of our country's imports and exports move on U.S. ships, the U.S. shipping industry supports, over 650,000 U.S. jobs, has over \$150 billion in annual U.S. economic impact, and plays a critical role in supporting our military's ability to project power and meet wartime requirements.

Shipping is the most energy efficient way to move cargo, and we heavily rely on the U.S. flag fleet for trade security, diplomatic and maritime strength, and our readiness to defend and support American interests overseas.

The U.S. has only 84 international deep sea trading vessels, but the rest of the world has over 50,000. China alone has nearly 7,000.

The United States needs a robust U.S. flag maritime industry and a trained and qualified mariner workforce to support our surge sealift capabilities in responding to crises and military operations around the world when called upon. Further, the U.S. flag fleet routinely responds to disasters and emergencies, moves critical government and military cargo around the world, and carries American farm products in support of U.S. international development programs to help developing countries in need.

The shipping industry is facing unprecedented challenges today, but one thing we know all too well is that a strong commercial maritime capability enhances our national security. The Maritime Security Program which has broad bipartisan support in Congress is the single most important program to assist U.S. flag ships in foreign trade and helps ensure that we retain this important military capacity.

While the U.S. is the largest trading nation in the world based on exports and imports of goods and services, without strong sustained support, the U.S. flag fleet faces difficult challenges which have significant potential to negatively impact America's national security. I want to thank the U.S. flag fleet and the U.S. merchant mariners who work every day to support our military and our Nation.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
GERALD E. TALBOT, MAINE'S
FIRST BLACK LEGISLATOR**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor my constituent, Gerald E. Talbot, who is celebrating his 90th birthday this year and who I wish to recognize for his instrumental role in advancing civil and human rights in Maine and across the nation.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Gerry Talbot's activism was sparked when he participated in voter registration drives and was among only a handful of Mainers at the his-

toric 1963 March on Washington, after which he became the founding president of the Portland, Maine, chapter of the NAACP. In that role, he helped pass the Maine Fair Housing Bill and the Maine Human Rights Act. As the state's first African American legislator, Gerry fought for a state holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.; and championed issues not traditionally addressed at the time, ranging from gun control and protections for migrant workers to fair housing and tribal sovereignty. In 1977, he sponsored Maine's first gay rights legislation.

Throughout his life, Gerry Talbot has worked to educate people about the Black experience. As an avid collector of books, posters, photographs, and other artifacts, as well as personal papers and records, he has helped document Black history in Maine and throughout the country. In 2006, he co-authored Maine's Visible Black History: The First Chronicle of its People. A sought-after speaker, Gerry generously shared access to his historical memorabilia wherever he went, and in order to inform generations to come, he donated it to the African American Collection of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity at the University of Southern Maine.

In Maine, public service and a commitment to others is the backbone of our communities, and Gerry Talbot is a shining example of these important values and commitments. Schools and parks have been named in his honor, and honorary degrees have been awarded. Today I am privileged to recognize his (or Gerald E. Talbot's) contributions to my state by entering his story into the official record of our great nation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
MATTHEW WADE BUTE**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Staff Sergeant Matthew Bute, a veteran and member of the Mississippi Rifles—the 155th Infantry Regiment in the Mississippi National Guard. He passed away September 10, 2021 in his home in Gulfport, Mississippi. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Matthew grew up in DeKalb, Illinois and graduated from Long Beach High School in Mississippi. He was an outstanding student and athlete—a defensive outside linebacker on the football team. In his civilian life, Matt worked for Inland Dredging and was known for his hard work. In the Mississippi National Guard, he was a dedicated leader and a selfless Soldier. He was a devoted friend and model of Army leadership.

SSG Matthew Bute served as a Dismounted Infantry Squad Leader in 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard. He was responsible for training a squad of infantry Soldiers. His military career began in 2012 and he has served in the Mississippi Guard for 9 years. He was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in May of this year. He deployed under the command of my current Legislative Director, Major Rodney Hall Jr., in support of Oper-

ation Spartan Shield and served in Kuwait and Iraq. Most recently, SSG Bute volunteered to protect our Nation's Capital during Operation Civil Unrest in Washington, D.C.

Left to cherish his memory are his older brother Brad and his nieces, Brooklyn and Rainee. He is preceded in death by his mother, Jennifer Holmes, and younger brother, Nathan Thumm.

SSG Matthew Bute was a brave Soldier, a remarkable leader, and an outstanding friend to many. I am grateful for his service to our state and nation.

PROVIDING URGENT MATERNAL
PROTECTIONS FOR NURSING
MOTHERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 22, 2021

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act—known as the PUMP Act.

All too often, the workplace is not an equal place for women as they face unequal pay for equal work and other forms of gender-based discrimination. Mothers face even greater barriers.

Mothers who choose to breastfeed should not be forced to choose between returning to work and breastfeeding. And they certainly should never have to pump in a place that is not safe, private, or comfortable.

The PUMP Act takes the long-overdue step of ensuring that every employee who chooses to breastfeed will have the time and a designated, private space to pump without penalty.

Nine million American workers will be covered by these new protections, ending unfair, discriminatory practices and allowing more mothers and infants to receive the scientifically proven health and nutritional benefits of breastfeeding.

I want to thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her leadership on this important, bipartisan bill to support working mothers, and her historic leadership on supporting working women and families.

I am proud to support this vital legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it as well.

HONORING CAROL COON

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to formally acknowledge the ordination of Carol Coon, who was ordained a minister in the River of Life Fellowship Church.

Carol has been a devout Christian all her life and has lived her life in a manner focused always on glorifying God. Her ordination is the fulfillment of a long-held dream and consummates her lifelong journey of faith in God. As the Member of Congress for Pennsylvania's Ninth District as well as Carol's nephew