

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### STANDING WITH ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST THE BARBARIC WAR LAUNCHED BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORISTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr Speaker, I join my colleagues in condemning the horrific and heartbreaking terror attacks by Hamas as articulated in H. Res. 771.

I have been horrified by and strongly condemn the terrorist attack that has unleashed another cycle of violence that has millions of innocent civilians in the region under threat.

Let me be clear: Hamas is a terrorist organization that has shown time and again its disregard for innocent human life and does not represent the aspirations or speak for the Palestinians. Hamas—which has long been designated a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. and subject to sanctions—has no regard for the lives it puts in danger, Israeli or Palestinian.

My heart continues to be heavy as I mourn the innocent Israeli lives lost and those kidnapped and taken hostage, including Americans and other foreign nationals.

I agree with many of my colleagues who have pointed out a glaring omission in this resolution: the lack of any real acknowledge of the hardships, suffering, and loss being imposed on innocent civilians in Gaza, including the children who have died, who hate Hamas as much as anyone in this chamber and simply want to live their lives in peace. We have to be clear that this body deplores the loss of all innocent lives.

I refuse the narrative that you cannot condemn Hamas while also expressing concerns for the fate of innocent Palestinians whose lives, livelihoods, and homes, are now in turmoil and under threat.

I reiterate the call from the Biden Administration, and others, that Israel's right to defend itself and its people, brings with it the responsibility to do so in accordance with international law, including the protection of civilian life. And this must include working to restore a supply of basic needs (food, water, medicines) to the civilians trapped in Gaza.

Hamas' inhumanity and acts of terrorism should not induce the rest of us to abandon our principles and international law.

You wouldn't know it from this resolution but there is an urgent humanitarian crisis that is being made worse every minute in Gaza. The longer the fighting goes, the worse I fear the impact will be for these civilians who did nothing to start this fight and have nowhere safe to go.

How does another massive humanitarian crisis help Israel's security or the ability of civilians to live in peace? I was pleased to join a number of my colleagues on a recent letter urging President Biden to make humanitarian

needs of innocent civilians in Gaza a priority. This must remain a priority for U.S. diplomatic efforts in the region, including directly by President Biden himself. I hope this chamber would have joined us in sharing that sense of urgency and decency.

And lastly, even as Israeli forces are gathering for a devastating ground war in Gaza that will increase the suffering of innocent Palestinians, we all have to recognize that, at some point, the fighting will end.

I hope it is much sooner rather than later for the sake of innocent civilians.

The resolution is however conspicuously silent on what happens when the violence ends or on the two-state solution that I and others have pressed for over the years and which sadly, continues to be sidelined which is the goal of groups like Hamas.

Let's be clear—to permanently end this cycle, we don't need more nonbinding resolutions and condemnations. Tough choices, Tough decision, Tough compromises have to be made. And those decisions will not be made here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

What happens when the rocket fire stops is going to be the most important indicator of, if and when, we can break this cycle of violence or how soon we will once again have sirens going off in Israel and Palestinians in Gaza told to flee without any actual ability to flee.

The need for greater political and diplomatic engagement will not end with the fighting. In fact, its need increases exponentially if you really want to protect innocent civilians.

I can tell you there are Palestinian moms and dads huddling with their children in some awful place begging for peace right now.

I also hear cries for peace from families, relatives, and friends of Israeli's who died or were wounded or who are being held hostages. I don't need thousands more innocent Israeli's and/or Palestinians under threat to know that they are hungry for anything that brings them closer to peace and farther from fearing for their lives at every moment.

Security for Palestinians and Israelis are linked. So is prosperity and hope for a better future.

I want this fighting to come to an end as soon as possible. Military means have never brought peace to this region.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4394, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. This bill makes devastating cuts that will harm consumers, take

us backwards in the green energy transition, and threaten good-paying, clean energy jobs.

Just as the heat is being turned on for the winter, House Republicans are putting forth H.R. 4394 which will raise energy costs for more than 250,000 American households. Additionally, H.R. 4394 includes provisions that limit the Department of Energy's ability to set energy efficiency standards for home appliances. Mr. Speaker, why wouldn't we want more efficient appliances? Contrary to Republican talking points, the Biden administration is not coming to take your gas stove. That is simply untrue. The Department of Energy does not have the authority to ban gas stoves or other appliances based on fuel sources, nor should it have the authority.

The growing threat of climate change is real, and in order to protect our planet, we must reduce carbon emissions and embrace a green energy future. Congressional Republicans have long been hostile to investments in clean energy and they are using H.R. 4394 as an opportunity to slow down the transition to green energy and rescind the historic investments in clean energy made in the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. H.R. 4394 includes a 42 percent cut to the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account. This office is critical to developing manufacturing, building efficiency, clean energy like hydrogen and solar, and weatherization technologies that are essential to our nation's growth and resilience in the face of climate change.

As we make the transition to green energy, opportunities for clean energy jobs are growing. In 2022, clean energy companies employed nearly 60,000 Minnesotans—and jobs in clean energy grew 50 percent faster than the state's overall economy. In fact, the biggest sector in Minnesota's clean energy industry is energy efficiency. Over 43,000 Minnesotans work to manufacture and install energy efficient appliances, lighting, heating, ventilation, HVAC systems, and advanced building materials in commercial buildings and homes. The drastic cuts in this bill and the attack on energy efficiency incentives will threaten the vibrancy of Minnesota's clean energy economy.

Mr. Chair, instead of reevaluating their extreme 2024 funding bills and working to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government beyond November 17th, House Republicans are moving forward with passing bills that have no chance of ever becoming law. With this bill, House Republicans are harming consumers, threatening our clean energy economy, and failing to address the existential threat of climate change. For all of these reasons, I must vote against H.R. 4394.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING ANA IBARRA AS 2023 VALLEY LUCHADORA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ana Ibarra, also known as “Doña Ana”, as a Valley Luchadora. Doña Ana is the founder and owner of Pozolería Doña Ana.

Ana was born and raised in Nayarit, Mexico, and came to the United States 44 years ago at the age of 18. With only a middle school education, Ana began her business in her living room in Panorama City, selling a popular Mexican dish, pozole.

Despite struggling with depression, Doña Ana found motivation to pursue the American dream and open her own small business.

Despite three localities denying her the license to open her restaurant, she persevered and is now located in the heart of Panorama City. Today, she has brought people from all over the United States to try her meals and bring people together through her food.

Doña Ana is the embodiment of the American dream and our community’s ‘si se puede’ mantra.

Since her one-year anniversary she shared through her restaurant funds, she has been able to send donations to over 300 children in Mexico because she remembers her humble beginnings.

It is this same spirit of generosity that she has taught to her family-owned restaurant and customers. Today, Doña Ana feeds any homeless person that enters her restaurant because she believes “a nadie se le niega un taco,” which loosely translates to “you don’t deny anyone food.”

I thank Ana. It is my honor to recognize her as a distinguished leader and luchador during Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING LIFE DIRECTIONS

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor Life Directions, a community-based organization whose mission is to motivate young adults, to mature into responsible, productive adults through self-direction, as they celebrate fifty years of service.

Life Directions was founded in Detroit in 1973 when five like-minded individuals, Alexander and Judith MacDonald, Reverend John Phelps, Sister Rosalie Esquerra, and Reverend Alex Steinmiller, came together in search of community-based solution to combat increasing rates of violence in impoverished areas of the city that was impacting and taking the lives of young people. From these initial meetings, Life Directions peer mentorship programming was born. Eventually Life Directions’ programs such as Peer Motivation, Peer Mentor and other enrichment programs were offered in schools to help teens and young adults navigate better solutions and become peace builders in their communities.

The Life Directions Programs were established in Detroit, Tucson, New Orleans, Chi-

cago, and San Antonio. To date, Life Directions combined programs, Peer Motivation, Peer Mentor, Neighborhood Enrichment, focus: Life Retreats, Focus Family, Enfoque la familia, Women Bridging Change and Men Bridging Change has reached over 180,000 youth and young adults.

Please join me in recognizing Life Directions’ commitment to building a brighter future for young people, as they celebrate fifty years.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Turkish Republic Day, a significant milestone that encapsulates a century of the Turkish people’s dedication to resilience, progress, and liberty. This is not just a celebration of Turkey’s freedom but also a testament to the enduring friendship between the United States and Turkey, allies whose shared values lay the foundation for a bright future.

Central to our relationship is the substantial economic partnership that we have cultivated. This bilateral relationship extends across critical sectors including defense, energy, and commerce. It is within this sphere of trade and investment that both nations encounter vast untapped potential, promising mutual prosperity.

We engage in a strong trade relationship, exchanging billions of dollars annually worth of essential goods. Turkey ranks as a key market for American enterprises, while Turkish investments on American soil continue to spur job creation and innovation, enriching our local communities.

We recognize that our commercial relationship, albeit robust, has room for growth. Turkey’s strategic location, bordering countries across the Eurasian region, positions it as a pivotal ally for U.S. interests now more than ever. Turkey is an attractive destination for foreign direct investment and economic collaboration, particularly in emerging sectors like technology, renewable energy, and healthcare.

As we mark Turkey’s centennial Republic Day, it is incumbent upon us to recommit to nurturing this partnership. By emboldening our economic ties and exploring collaborative ventures, we can co-create a pathway towards sustained economic vitality and security. This celebration is not just about reflecting on Turkey’s admirable past; it’s about forging ahead, side by side, towards a prosperous and peaceful future.

I extend heartfelt Republic Day greetings to the Turkish people. Here’s to a friendship that, built on mutual respect and common aspirations, will continue to flourish for generations.

HONORING JULIETA GARCIA AS 2023 VALLEY LUCHADORA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julieta Garcia as a Valley Luchadora. Julieta is a compassionate woman who saw a need in her community and decided to act. Born in Sinaloa Mexico, Julieta migrated to Los Angeles, California in 1968 where she decided to pursue the American Dream.

She worked hard to make it in this country, overcoming many obstacles to initiate a long career in post-secondary education.

In 1981, she opened a vocational school that provided injured workers with career focused training.

To many, that is a summation of a life’s work—but not for Julieta. After retiring, she decided to give even more to her community.

In 2015, she founded Plaza Comunitaria Sinaloa (PCS), a non-profit dedicated to empowering the immigrant community through adult education. Her belief in the power of education is the driving force to empower a whole community.

Julieta and her family, Julie and Jaqueline, help people just like my parents, Andres and Maria Cárdenas, who emigrated from Mexico with a first and second grade level education, to learn English, learn to use computers, get their GED, pass their citizenship exam, and provide mental health and domestic violence prevention workshops.

Plaza Comunitaria Sinaloa grew by word of mouth from the comadres network.

As many of us know, a comadres network is an informal group of mothers in the community connecting others with vital information and resources.

Julieta has partnered with various neighborhood councils, businesses, and foundations.

With the support of the community, PCS has grown tremendously since 2021 and continues to expand programs and services based on community needs, priorities, and values.

I thank Julieta. It is my honor to recognize her as a distinguished community leader and luchadora during this Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING JANICE MCDONALD

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janice McDonald for her decades of service to the Cherry Creek School District, City of Aurora, and surrounding communities.

A Colorado native, Janice graduated from East High School in Denver before moving with her husband to Aurora in 1957. All five of their children and fourteen of their grandchildren attended Cherry Creek Schools.

Over the years, Janice dedicated much of her time and energy to giving back to children and her community. At Ponderosa High School, she served as the Vice President and

President of the Parent Teacher Community Organization and represented the school on the Parents Council. Janice also served on the School Accountability Committee and started several multi-cultural programs at Prairie Middle School. Each month, she would offer a presentation to students about diverse cultures, countries, and industries. She also developed a student-adult mentoring program specifically geared toward young African American students.

In November 2015, Janice was elected to the Cherry Creek School Board of Education as the first African-American woman to serve in that role. As the representative for District B, she prioritized strengthening community involvement and focused on closing the achievement gap for all students. With her vast personal and professional experience in the district, she wanted to give back to a community that she believed had served her children and family well.

On October 9, 2023, Janice delivered final remarks during her final board meeting as a Cherry Creek School District Board Member. In part they read:

“In retrospect, I have been afforded the opportunity to serve eight years. An opportunity that I haven’t taken for granted. I truly believe to whom much has been given, much is required. I have been committed. When my five children came through the district I wanted the best for them, now my grandchildren. I want the best for them as well, but beyond my personal desires, I have truly wanted the best for all students.” Her parting advice was to “Let the agenda always support what’s best for the children in every deliberation.”

Janice’s colleagues also offered remarks in honor of her service and to pay tribute to her unwavering focus on the children and her well-known and often-asked line, “How are the children?”

I commend and thank Janice for her decades of service to the community, including eight years of service to the Cherry Creek School District. As she begins her retirement, may Janice’s experience and commitment to service leave a lasting legacy on the students, faculty, and the Board in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LONGEST SERVING  
MAYOR OF LAS CRUCES MAYOR  
KEN MIYAGISHIMA

**HON. GABE VASQUEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Ken Miyagishima on the occasion of his retirement and to recognize his work as a public servant who has tirelessly represented Las Cruces as Mayor for 16 years. The longest serving mayor in the city’s history.

Mayor Miyagishima moved from Mississippi to Las Cruces at the age of eight. He attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and graduated in 1985. In 1992, at 28, he became the first American of Japanese-Mexican descent to be elected to public office in New Mexico when he became Commissioner for Doña Ana County.

In 2001, he was elected to the Las Cruces City Council, serving until 2007. Mr.

Miyagishima was later elected mayor of Las Cruces, becoming the first person of Japanese and Mexican descent to be elected mayor. Following this election, he became only the second person in Doña Ana County’s history to have been elected both as Chairman of the Doña Ana County Commission and the Mayor of Las Cruces. As Mayor, Ken was an advocate for our youth, spearheaded the growth of our city, and brought forth generational change to our city.

Throughout Mayor Miyagishima’s more than 30 years of public service, he has served with integrity and courage, fought to improve the lives of Las Cruces, and elevated our city at the national level. Mayor Miyagishima received the 2002 Commander’s Award for Public Service from the Department of the Army and the 2016 Antonio Villaraigosa Award.

On behalf of the great people of New Mexico’s 2nd Congressional District, I thank Mayor Ken Miyagishima for his life of service to Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. His work has made his community and New Mexico a stronger and more equitable community. We wish him well in his next chapter.

HONORING MANNY FLORES AS 2023  
VALLEY LUCHADOR FOR HIS-  
PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manny Flores as a Valley Luchador. Manny Flores is the Executive Director for North Valley Caring Services.

Throughout the last decade, he has played a key role at North Valley Caring Services.

Manny was impacted by the criminal justice system where he found a new path and began his commitment to help others find theirs.

Through his hard work and dedication to his community and his faith in God, he transformed a small non-profit organization into a powerhouse that helps many Valley families.

Their programs include a food pantry, hot meals for families living in motels, a Safe Parking program for the unhoused, and homeless outreach.

During the pandemic, demand for NVCS services exploded as more people found themselves housing insecure, food insecure, and job insecure. Manny led the NVCS team as they rose to meet the challenge, expanding services like their food bank to help 4,000 families, ten times the number of families they fed pre-pandemic. He and his team worked tirelessly to ensure that families in need got the food and essential goods they needed during the public health emergency.

They organized drive-thru food banks at their headquarters at the North Hills United Methodist Church, and lines would wrap around Sepulveda Boulevard and Nordhoff Street.

They even took the drive-thru food bank to other locations such as Sun Valley and Van Nuys.

They mastered the logistical skill of organizing drive-thru food pantries with volunteer power.

Manny, the NVCS team, and the volunteers under his leadership have changed countless lives in our community.

Manny is a shining example of a Luchador who helped his community in the most difficult circumstances.

Unfortunately, he lost his son Joseph Flores this year. Joseph was one of Manny’s most dedicated volunteers.

Even with this loss, Manny honors his son every day by supporting the families in his community that need support.

I thank Manny for his countless years of public service. It is my honor to recognize him as a distinguished community leader and luchador during Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING TURKEY’S 100TH AN-  
NIVERSARY AND JAZZ DIPLO-  
MACY

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a historic milestone, the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey.

One remarkable aspect of Turkey’s presence in the United States is the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C. Over the years, the Embassy has played a vital role in enhancing cultural diplomacy and fostering friendships between our nations. Notably, the Turkish Embassy’s dedication to hosting jazz events has left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape. Jazz, a truly American art form, has found a welcoming home within the walls of the Turkish Embassy. These events have transcended mere musical performances; they have served as bridges connecting hearts and minds across cultures, and continue to prove the non-negligible, connecting nature of music.

At the height of Jim Crow segregation in the U.S., the Turkish Embassy’s jazz concerts in the 1930’s and 1940’s were significant during the anti-racism struggle. At this time, Black Americans were not allowed to sit next to whites in many places like restaurants and concert halls. Yet, the Turkish Embassy in Washington broke down prejudice and barriers by opening their doors to Black jazz musicians. Münir Ertegun, Turkey’s second ambassador to the U.S. who served between 1934 and 1944, and his two sons, Ahmet and Nesuhi—also the founders of the top recording company Atlantic Records—challenged racism in the U.S. by inviting African American jazz performers to the Turkish Embassy for concerts and jam sessions in Washington, D.C. during these years. These Embassy concerts featured iconic performers like Lois Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Teddy Wilson, and Lester Young. These groundbreaking gatherings showed the potential of jazz diplomacy. The Ertegun brothers went further by organizing Washington’s first integrated concert in 1942 at the Jewish Community Center on 16th Street. Some described the powerful imagery of two Muslim men bringing Black music to a Jewish-owned institution. This desegregation through music and culture launched a legacy worth recognizing.

Turkey’s efforts extend far beyond its musical contributions to the global community and the United States. It has been a source of inspiration for countless individuals, including African American writers like James Baldwin. Baldwin, whose literary brilliance continues to

resonate, routinely found solace and creativity in Turkey.

Baldwin, who famously stated: “Turkey saved my life!” lived off and on in Istanbul for nearly ten years beginning in 1961. The nation’s rich history, vibrant culture, and diverse society provided Baldwin with the backdrop and inspiration for some of his most profound works. This connection between Turkey and a literary giant like James Baldwin demonstrates the transformative power of cultural exchange and the enduring bonds that can be forged between nations.

As we recognize Turkey’s 100th anniversary, let us not only honor its remarkable journey but also reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cultural understanding between Turkey and the United States. May the jazz that has filled the halls of the Turkish Embassy continue to serve as a powerful reminder of our shared values and aspirations. Especially in these turbulent times, working together for our shared goals of peace, fairness, and justice is more important than ever. May the spirit of democracy, liberty, and cultural exchange continue to flourish between our two great nations in the years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF PROFESSOR AN YIN

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Professor An Yin, who passed away on July 12, 2023. Mr. Yin was a distinguished Professor of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles located in my congressional district.

Professor Yin was born on June 24, 1959, in Harbin, China. He was a part of an intellectual family with both of his parents being medical professors. Mr. Yin was inspired by his family to pursue a career in science. He began his academic career at Beijing University where he studied Geomechanics before transferring to the University of Southern California (USC) in 1982 to join their master’s and doctoral degree programs in structural geology.

Professor Yin officially received his doctoral degree from USC in 1988 and was offered a tenure tracked professorship at the University of California, Los Angeles. By 1996, he ascended to full Professor status at UCLA, even earning a title of Distinguished Professor for the year of 1995. During this time, Mr. Yin was sharing a joint appointment with the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics from 1995 to 2011. He made important contributions to the field of geophysics by integrating a range of geological observations into unexplored fields in Earth and planetary science.

Professor Yin was recognized widely for his innovative efforts to help understand how the planetary lithosphere forms and deforms. He was awarded the Young Scientist award and became a fellow of the Geological Society of America in 1994. He was then elected as a fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2013. Another significant recognition he received was the prestigious Penrose Medal in

2022, which is the highest medal granted at the Geological Society of America.

Professor Yin also kept a continued focus on the geology of China and East Asia. He and his colleagues worked together to construct views of many critical issues in key places throughout the territory, including fault systems in Central Tibet, possible seismic gaps in northern China, and a metamorphic belt in Qiangtang. He was a founding member of the International Professionals for Advancement of Chinese Earth Sciences in 1999, a non-profit organization established to promote earth science research and education in China and international collaborations. Mr. Yin offered lectures and courses to numerous students in China and inspired many young academic professionals to pursue interests in geophysics, geology, and geochemistry.

Professor Yin is remembered for being an excellent advisor to many graduate and undergraduate students at UCLA. He supervised over 40 graduate theses and was considered the backbone of the UCLA field research curriculum for over 30 years. Many of his students have gone on to accept professorships themselves and one of his doctoral graduates is a NASA astronaut. He set a high bar for the scientific community that remains an inspiration to all who studied under him.

An Yin is survived by his wife Sandy and children, Daniel, and Hanah, along with his numerous mentees and academic colleagues who credit him with inspiring their strong work ethic and creative mindsets. May his memory live on in all those he taught and inspired in life.

HONORING PIERRE IVAN ARREOLA  
AS 2023 VALLEY LUCHADOR FOR  
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pierre Ivan Arreola as a Valley Luchador.

Pierre Ivan Arreola aka Pierre Boogie is a proud son of immigrants that grew up in Pacoima.

As he was growing up, he felt a deep connection to the arts through music and dance from his parents.

In high school, Pierre and his friends created The GR818ERS (pronounced ‘GREAT-ONE-EIGHTERS’), a collective that aims to uplift and empower their community through Hip Hop culture.

Today, with the direction of Pierre, the GR818ERS host community events and youth programs throughout the year that highlight Hip-Hop culture as a platform for self expression and social justice.

The GR818ERS founded AWOKE, a non-profit organization inspired by empowerment and the arts.

After a decade of building the movement, they opened the UNITE Cultural Center in Canoga Park—a San Fernando Valley-based hub for youth and community development through creative transformation, civic engagement, and collective healing.

As the Executive Director of AWOKE, Pierre manages development efforts, administers

funding contracts, and oversees a team of 15 cultural ambassadors. One of the locations I would like to highlight is Sheldon Skate Park where the GR818ERS are bringing vital resources and programming to the youth and skaters.

Pierre was a first-generation college student and received his bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Brown University.

Pierre has always been dedicated to his community and was recognized as the City of Los Angeles Impact Maker to Watch in 2016. Pierre has used his positions to continue to uplift vulnerable communities, spread hope, and advocate for justice.

Currently Pierre serves as a commissioner on the City of Los Angeles’ Human Relations Commission.

He was appointed to the City of Los Angeles’ Executive Task Force on Youth Development to help craft the blueprint for the City of Los Angeles’ inaugural Youth Development Department.

Pierre also serves as a board member of two academic centers at Cal State University, Northridge: The Center for Southern California Studies and the Center for the Interdisciplinary Pursuit of Hip Hop Elevation & Research.

In 2022, Pierre received the Mentorship Award from the San Fernando Valley Young Democrats.

I thank Pierre. It is my honor to recognize him as a distinguished leader and luchador during Hispanic Heritage Month.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF BISHOP MARC ANDRUS

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with overwhelming joy that I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Marc Andrus, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California: a spiritual luminary and moral leader whose more than three decades of service has been nothing short of exceptional. Bishop Marc embodies the creed of the City of St. Francis: ‘Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.’ Indeed, as an instrument of peace, he has played a beautiful symphony: honoring our sacred responsibility to care for those in need, to defend the dignity of all God’s children and to preserve our precious planet.

Whether in the pulpit or in our communities, the magnificent ministry of Bishop Marc has made a direct, and extraordinary, impact. He has held the position of Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California since 2006. As such, he leads a flock of 27,000 Episcopalians across 75 congregations in Northern California: walking with them down the path toward salvation and social justice. At the same time, his support for the Episcopal Impact Fund and a capital campaign to support Bay Area congregations has only amplified his impact—empowering more people of faith to perform good works in their communities. And his leadership on the San Francisco Interfaith Council helps bring our City together to work for housing and health care, education and environmental impact, justice and peace.

When St. Luke’s Hospital was on the verge of closure, Bishop Marc stepped forward to

help marshal an effort to rescue this pillar of health, healing and history in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood. The Blue Ribbon Panel that he co-chaired—which brought together community members, labor leaders, local officials, health professionals and industry stakeholders—quickly assembled a plan of action to rebuild the hospital so that it could continue to provide outstanding medical care. And when COVID struck, he was an invaluable resource for helping his diocese—and our City—navigate the chaos and uncertainty, convening experts twice a week to coordinate on policy decisions and public outreach.

Bishop Marc's clarion call for marriage equality was consequential in moving the nationwide fight forward. At a time when the Episcopal Church had not approved of rites for same-sex marriage, Bishop Marc publicly urged all couples—gay or straight—to be married in a civil ceremony with a blessing to be performed by the clergy. He went on to lead efforts within the Episcopal Church to win official marriage rites for same-sex couples, and he supported two amici curiae briefs bolstering marriage equality in the courts. And he brought great pride to our City when, as the very first person that he ordained as Bishop, he ordained the first transgender member of the Diocese of California clergy.

Growing up among the rolling hills and mighty rivers of eastern Tennessee, Bishop Marc could hear the Lord's call to be good stewards of His Creation. As an influential voice across the Episcopal Church, and co-chair of its Environmental Task Force, he has helped formulate climate policy recommendations and design initiatives to mobilize for climate action. In 2021, Bishop Marc led an Episcopal delegation to COP26—not only to reaffirm our moral duty to care for God's Creation, but also our obligation to advance eco-justice for communities hit hardest by the climate crisis. Thanks to his efforts, the Episcopal Church gained official observer status, giving it a platform to engage more directly with negotiators on all areas of the convention to address the climate crisis. At COP27, speaking at a panel that I appeared on, he offered striking moral clarity on the need to rescue our planet for future generations.

How fitting that, this Saturday, many from his congregation and his many friends in our City will gather at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco for the 174th Convention of the Diocese of California, where we will celebrate his towering legacy. But more profound than the praise we will offer him at the event will be the impact of prayerful leadership and service, which will be forever etched in the hearts of so many in the Bay Area and beyond.

I thank Bishop Marc for walking with us down the righteous path. May his retirement be filled with the same faith, charity and hope that he has so generously shared with us for so long.

CONGRATULATING “THE VOICE OF THE GRIZ” PETER CHRISTIAN TO HONOR HIS 50 YEARS IN PUBLIC BROADCASTING AND HIS IMPACT ON MISSOULA RADIO AND THE MONTANA GRIZZLIES

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to an iconic Montanan and the Voice of the Griz, Peter Christian and celebrate his 50 years in broadcasting. This Montana legend and esteemed member of the community has won 25 first-place ‘Craney’ awards from the Montana Broadcasters Association for his news coverage on KGVO based out of Missoula, Montana. Beloved by thousands of fans across many generations, Peter has also been the Public Address Announcer for the Montana Grizzlies at Washington Grizzly Stadium since 1998.

On behalf of the people of Montana's first Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Peter Christian for his meaningful contributions to our community through public broadcasting.

Bravo Zulu, Peter.

HONORING VIRGINIA STATON DEROSSETT—100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Virginia Staton DeRossett of the First District of Kentucky who is turning 100 years old on November 1st. Ms. DeRossett is a Clinton County resident.

Ms. DeRossett diligently served her country throughout her 20-year tenure at the Pentagon, retiring in 1962. In addition to her civil service during World War II and the Korean war, her three brothers served in our nation's military, further solidifying her sense of duty.

Ms. DeRossett remains an engaged member of the community who continually seeks opportunities to better the lives of her fellow citizens. Ms. DeRossett's patriotic spirit and dedication to her country are rivaled only by her fervent commitment to her family and her conservative ideology.

I join with her family and loved ones, including her daughter and her extended family, in celebrating her lifetime of accomplishments and recognizing her valiant efforts serving our Nation.

HONORING XIOMARA FLORES-HOLGUIN AS 2023 VALLEY LUCHADORA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Xiomara Flores-Holguin as a Valley Luchadora.

Xiomara is famous in Los Angeles County for her work as a social worker and protecting thousands of kids during her amazing career.

She grew up a child of immigrants from Nicaragua. As a first generation American whose first language was Spanish, Xiomara has always understood the importance of inclusion, representation, and protecting those without a voice.

She received her master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California and got her start working with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

During her time posted with the Emergency Response Command, there were many nights when she was the only Spanish-speaking social worker in the entire county available to respond to emergency calls to accompany law enforcement to homes where Spanish-speaking children needed care.

When LAPD units answered calls about gang violence, Xiomara was there. When LAPD busted a human trafficking ring, Xiomara was there. When they raided a house where drugs were being manufactured, Xiomara was there.

Her primary concern was always the innocent children caught up in the violence, usually standing to the side, quiet and frightened while police arrested the adults around them. She made sure they were cared for and reunited with family whenever possible or placed into the foster system.

Xiomara retired after 36 years with the Department of Children and Family Services. She leaves behind a legacy of new policies that protect the welfare of vulnerable children throughout Los Angeles.

She continues to give back to her community by way of teaching part-time at the California State University Northridge Department of Social Work. Xiomara understands the need for compassion and trained, culturally competent crisis professionals to respond to urgent calls, values she passes on to her students.

In addition to her work at CSUN, she remains a tireless worker and advocate for underserved populations and is a major influencing member of the San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs.

I thank Xiomara. It is my honor to recognize her as a distinguished community leader and luchadora during this Hispanic Heritage Month.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF MAYOR KEN MARSHBURN

**HON. WILEY NICKEL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and celebrate the exemplary service of Mayor Ken Marshburn, a distinguished leader, and devoted public servant to the Town of Garner. I'm privileged to recognize his remarkable contributions to our community and express our collective gratitude.

Before Ken Marshburn was elected as Garner's mayor in 2019, he served on the Town Council for twelve years. He was also on the board of the Garner Economic Development Corporation, which led the redevelopment of

the former ConAgra site into a bustling Amazon fulfillment center, further solidifying Garner's role in the economic prosperity of our region.

Beyond his civic leadership, Mayor Marshburn has exhibited a life of dedication to public service, retiring as the Chief of U.S. Pretrial Services for the Eastern District of North Carolina, after a laudable 26-year career. He and his wife, the equally esteemed Ms. Faye Marshburn, who served the Wake County Public School System, have been pillars of the Garner community for over three decades.

It's impossible to miss the philanthropic spirit of the Marshburns. Both Mayor Marshburn and Mrs. Marshburn have been steadfast volunteers with Meals on Wheels of Wake County as well as active members of Garner First Baptist Church.

Furthermore, Mayor Marshburn's passion for education and youth empowerment is evident from his fourteen-year service as guardian ad litem for Wake County, his fifteen-year tenure as a reading tutor in Garner schools, and his unwavering commitment to the Garner Morning Rotary Club for nearly two decades.

Mayor Marshburn's leadership has steered Garner towards a positive and prosperous future. His commitment to fiscal responsibility has laid a solid foundation for the town's growth, attracting new businesses that enrich our economic diversity. His legacy is one of leadership, service, and unwavering dedication to our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Mayor Ken Marshburn for his unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to Garner and extending our best wishes to him and his family as they embark on this well-deserved retirement.

Our community is undeniably richer and brighter due to his leadership and service.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DIANNE FEINSTEIN LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION ACT

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill cosponsored by every California Democrat and the entire Nevada delegation renaming the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–506) in honor of the late U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D–CA). We recognize her legacy and leadership spanning more than three decades to Keep Tahoe Blue.

Among her many accomplishments, Senator Feinstein secured more than \$715 million in authorized federal funding under this landmark 2000 law to conserve Lake Tahoe and the surrounding basin for future generations. Senator Feinstein's 2016 amendments to this law provided new authorities for the U.S. Forest Service to combat wildfires across the Tahoe Basin. These authorities were first employed in combating the devastating Caldor Fire in 2021 and in the recovery since.

Nobody in government has done more to Keep Tahoe Blue than Senator Feinstein. She organized the first annual Tahoe Summit in 1997, while I served as Deputy Secretary of

the Interior during the Clinton Administration. The California and Nevada Senators have since rotated hosting the Tahoe Summit annually, which I have been honored to attend over the years.

In 1999, Senator Feinstein sponsored the original Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, the companion of which by then-Congressman John T. Doolittle (R–CA) was enacted into law in the year 2000. In the 114th Congress, I was honored to sponsor the companion to Senator Feinstein's "Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015" with then-U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R–NV), which was enacted into law the following year.

Under the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (Division AA of Public Law 116–260), she worked with Congresswoman DIANA TITUS (D–NV), U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D–CA), and me to authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers new invasive species in alpine lakes pilot project to safeguard Lake Tahoe. Under the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (Title LXXXI of Public Law 117–263), she worked again with us to secure an additional \$25 million in federal funding for restoration efforts across the Lake Tahoe Basin, such as restoration of the Upper Truckee River and Marsh.

This past March, Senator Feinstein sponsored the "Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act of 2023" with the entire Nevada delegation to provide an additional \$415 million in federal funding until 2034. I can think of no better tribute to Senator Feinstein's decades of leadership to help conserve Lake Tahoe than passing this bipartisan reauthorization into law. I am deeply saddened by the passing of this amazing public servant, longtime friend, and treasured colleague. Senator Feinstein will be missed dearly, but her legacy will endure through the lives of the countless Californians she improved during her storied life and career.

My colleagues and I from the California and Nevada delegations are honored to recognize Senator Feinstein's tireless advocacy for our public lands by sponsoring this bill to rename the landmark Lake Tahoe Restoration Act in her honor. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

#### CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 29, 2023, the Republic of Türkiye celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding, and I congratulate the People of Türkiye and Turkish Americans on this 100th commemoration.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.–Türkiye Relations and Turkish Americans and the only Member of Congress of Turkish descent, I recognize the vast reforms that were undertaken by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his vision for a reformed, modernized, and democratic Turkish Republic. Today, Turkish Americans represent a vital thread of the American fabric, and with rich culture and history, they serve as the best ambassadors for strong relations between our two countries.

I take pride in the contributions and cultural richness brought by Turkish-Americans to the United States. Our heritage is a tapestry woven into the diverse fabric of this nation, and we remain committed to fostering understanding and collaboration between Türkiye and the United States.

I congratulate the Turkish people and Turkish Americans on this centennial milestone and look forward to strengthening U.S. Türkiye relations.

HONORING VICTOR GARZA

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Victor Garza. He is a longtime community advocate and Latino leader in San Jose, CA.

Victor Garza was born in Eagle Pass, Texas, and moved to California in 1960. He enlisted in the United States Navy and when he left the Navy, he realized there were limited services for veterans in the community. He observed that Latinos were struggling to gain a political voice and recognized that two key areas that needed to be addressed were educational attainment of Latinos and increasing their political participation and increasing services to people in need throughout the community. He was active in one of the most important veterans' groups in the nation, the American GI Forum.

Victor became the first Manager of the Santa Clara County Office of Veterans Services. He has received numerous commendations and awards for his long history of political activism and community involvement including proclamations from the U.S. Congress, State Legislature, County of Santa Clara, and the City of San Jose. He was awarded "Outstanding Young Man of America" by the U.S. Jaycees, recognized by the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission for outstanding service and dedication to the community, and was an Olympic Cross Country Torch Relay Participant in 1996. The Victor Garza Community Center in Austin, Texas bears his name, as does the Victor Garza Educational Center at Evergreen Valley College.

He founded the La Raza Roundtable in 1988, Santa Clara County's largest coalition of Latino and Mexican American organizations, and spent the last 4 decades fighting for his community. In 1998, Victor was invited by the White House to participate in President Clinton's Initiative on Race and Poverty.

Victor has been a strong voice for equitable education, social and health services, immigration issues, employment and promotional issues that impact the Latino workforce, as well as veterans affairs. He is truly the best our community has to offer, and it has been my privilege to work alongside him and I am proud to call him my friend.

HONORING FABIAN ALOMAR AS  
2023 VALLEY LUCHADOR FOR  
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fabian Aiomar as a Valley Luchador.

Fabian is a professional skateboarder and actor. He stated his career in the '90s, and since then he has involved himself in community advocacy. He most recently appeared in FLAMIN' HOT, an ode to the invention of Hot Cheetos—a beloved snack.

A former resident of Panorama City, Fabian balances acting with his love for skateboarding. He supports the sport and kids interested in it by donating skateboards so they can get involved in and improve at skateboarding.

Over four years ago, Fabian became involved with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition as a formerly incarcerated individual. The ARC empowers formerly and currently incarcerated people to thrive by providing a support network, comprehensive reentry services, and opportunities to advocate for policy changes that will help others caught in cycles of incarceration.

Today, Fabian uses his platform to share the mission of ARC to help others who are formerly incarcerated integrate back into society.

Fabian, like me, is the son of immigrants and came from a lineage of farmers.

He told one of our local newspapers, the San Fernando Sun, that he recently reconnected with his campesino roots and is expanding his advocacy efforts to include agricultural workers.

His advocacy, energy, and compassion are limitless, and we are proud to call him a Valley native.

I thank Fabian. It is my honor to recognize him as a distinguished leader and luchador during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Penny, along with her family, grew up in Fountain Chapel A.M.E. Church in Tallahassee where she participated in the Youth Choir and the YPD'ers (Young People and Children's Division).

Under Episcopal Supervisor Penny Hartsfield White's leadership, the members of the Women's Missionary Society have grown in their mission focus. Episcopal Supervisor Penny is intentional about ensuring the missionaries bless organizations that serve "the least of these." Donations of diapers, clothing, socks, coats, toiletries, toys, and funds are just a sampling of the ways the missionaries have an impact.

Penny's service to her community is rich and extensive, including serving: with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami; as Chair and Co-Chair of United Way Campaigns: as a Co-Chair for multiple March of Dimes sub-committees; on Committees within the American Cancer Society; as Treasurer for the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce Trustee Council; with the Chamber as they travelled to Brazil and South Africa to foster working relationships between countries; and as an officer of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Penny currently serves as a Board Member of the Black Women's Agenda, Inc.

During her tenure, Episcopal Supervisor Penny Hartsfield White spearheaded the project to build a home for a pastor in Africa when she learned he needed a place to live. She led the construction of a commercial kitchen in the public library in Pembroke, Illinois, to ensure the community had a suitable gathering place. She also coordinated the purchase of sewing machines for widowed women in India so they could make items to sell to support their families.

I join with members of the 4th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the global community to thank Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White for her exceptional service to the church and our nation. I wish her health and happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY ELLEN  
RIVERS SMITH

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a committed educator, devout Christian, and dedicated public servant, Mrs. Mary Ellen Rivers Smith. Ms. Smith transitioned from this life on October 14, 2023. She was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on February 13, 1931, the third of four children born to Addell and Mitchell Rivers.

Ms. Smith was a proud graduate of the Charleston School System, having attended Simonton Elementary School, where I began my professional career, and the historic Avery Institute, the first accredited secondary school for African Americans in Charleston. The Avery Institute had a special place in her heart. Decades after graduation, Mrs. Smith donated several artifacts from her school days to what has become the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture.

Ms. Smith matriculated at North Carolina Central University, then North Carolina Col-

lege, in Durham, North Carolina, in 1952 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health and Physical Education with a minor in Education. An avid and talented singer, Mrs. Smith earned the nickname "Songbird" as a soloist in the University Choir. After graduation, she returned to Charleston to teach high school and shortly thereafter married Reverend Dr. Charles F. Thomas.

Mrs. Smith was deeply dedicated to uplifting and shaping young minds. Over her six-decades-long career as an educator, she taught in elementary and middle schools in South Carolina; Biloxi, Mississippi; Lanon, Philippine Islands; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Omaha, Nebraska. After residing in Omaha for many years, she moved with her family to Huntsville, Alabama.

In Huntsville, Mrs. Smith became Education Director for the Comprehensive Childcare program. She retired from teaching in 1999 but continued her commitment to educating the next generation of young minds as a substitute elementary school teacher. Additionally, during this time, she met and married Frank C. Smith of Charleston. Her dedication to education and community service served as an inspiration to her five children, all of whom served as educators in various capacities.

Mrs. Smith accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at a young age and was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church. Her love for the Lord would follow her throughout the entirety of her life. A longtime devoted parishioner of Morris Street Baptist Church in Charleston, Mrs. Smith was involved in the Senior Choir, Hour of Power Choir, Educational Ministry, Newsletter Ministry, Social Butterflies, Senior Ministry, Pastoral Aid, Senior Citizens, and Sunday School.

After relocating to the Washington, D.C. area to live with her daughter Jennifer, Mrs. Smith became a member of the Reid Temple AME Church. There, she participated in the Reid Temple Senior Services Bible study. However, Morris Street Baptist always remained dear to her heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the remarkable life of Mrs. Mary Ellen Rivers Smith. She is remembered fondly by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, beloved relatives, church family, and dear friends. Mrs. Smith lived a life full of love, devotion, public service, and grace. She will be sorely missed and well-remembered by all blessed to know her.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
CAMILLE BRANDON

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the life of Camille Brandon, a dedicated public servant and advocate for causes about which she cared deeply. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have worked with her will recall the kindness, the decency and the warmth that she brought to all of her governmental, political and civic efforts.

Camille was the Deputy Erie County Clerk under elected clerks of both major parties, was a trusted advisor in the administration of

RECOGNIZING MRS. PENNY  
HARTSFIELD WHITE ON HER RE-  
TIREMENT AS SUPERVISOR OF  
THE 4TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional service of Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White, 4th Episcopal District Supervisor of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The 4th Episcopal District is headquartered in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois.

Penny is a native of Tallahassee, Florida, and the fifth of nine siblings, six girls and three boys. Her father, the late Richard Allen Hartsfield, Sr., was the Assistant County Agent, and her mother, the late Mrs. Mamie S. Hartsfield, was an elementary educator and a staff member of Florida A. & M. University.

Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski and held important positions at the Buffalo City Court. She was the Vice President of the Pulaski Association, chaired the Youth Services and Citizens Police Advisory Boards in the Town of Cheektowaga, and sat on the board of the YWCA Institute for Public Leadership Planning. She was an American Heart Association board member and had been Grand Marshall of Buffalo's Pulaski Day Parade.

Active in politics, she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1992, 1996, and 2012. She generously lent her time, her expertise, and her friendly and positive attitude to political efforts.

We join our friend, Camille's dedicated husband, Bob Brandon, in mourning this tremendous loss. All of us who knew and worked with Camille will remember her with deep gratitude and affection. If more people in the realms of politics, government and civic affairs shared Camille's deep commitment to kindness, decency and mutual understanding, our nation would be far better off. May she continue to be an example to all of us.

HONORING THE NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS THE 2023 CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recognition by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce as the 2023 Chamber of the Year. I am so proud that the North Central Chamber of Commerce is the first Chamber of Commerce in Massachusetts and New England to be recognized with this prestigious national honor. The Chamber will be celebrating this success at their Congressional Luncheon on November 1, 2023. Congresswoman LORI TRAHAN and I will jointly celebrate this monumental achievement.

The North Central Chamber demonstrates excellence in operations, member services, and community leadership. The Chamber provides immeasurable support to budding and established entrepreneurs in the region, which helps our businesses thrive. From new programs supporting Latinx small business, to re-vamping highly trafficked tourism destinations, the Chamber tirelessly works to improve the life of residents and guests to Central Massachusetts.

This recognition affirms what my constituents already know: the North Central Chamber of Commerce goes above and beyond for all. The Chamber's commitment to continued improvement is what makes them so successful.

And, of course, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the countless partners that help the Chamber excel at their work. North Central Massachusetts's educational, economic, non-profit, cultural, and governmental organizations each have seamlessly integrated into the Chamber's purview. The over 700 businesses and organizations the Chamber assists rightly trust the Chamber to help them serve the twenty-seven communities across North Central Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the remarkable contributions of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to such a great organization for another year of phenomenal work.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS NATIONAL MONUMENT

**HON. CHIP ROY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument located at Joint Base San Antonio—Lackland.

For the past ten years, the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument has served as a physical symbol of the loyal service and unconditional sacrifice that military working dogs have made alongside our men and women in uniform since WWII.

It is a privilege and an honor to celebrate the anniversary of the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument. I hope this record serves as an acknowledgment of the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed to both soldiers and K-9s by the American people. On behalf of Texas' 21st Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary sacrifice of these individuals and animals.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SAMANTHA WOLL

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize an incredible friend and community leader, Samantha Woll. Our community is deeply saddened by her tragic death and the sudden loss of a courageous and tenacious fighter for all.

I first met Samantha, affectionately known as Sam, in 2016. Sam was driven by her Jewish faith that led to her interfaith work. Sam had the ability to connect with diverse communities and bring people together in a way that made us all stronger. Her lasting impact is a testament to her strong values and character.

Not only did she serve as the President of the Isaac Agree Detroit Downtown Synagogue where she worked tirelessly in preparation of its recent re-opening, Sam also served with numerous community organizations, including serving on the board of the Mary Turner Center for Advocacy. Through her work, Sam created spaces for both Muslim and Jewish youth together. Sam served on a number of Democratic campaigns and volunteered for many political causes, helping support local, state and national issues.

Above all, Sam was a daughter, sister and aunt who absolutely adored her family. If she wasn't actively organizing her community, she was spending most of her time with family and traveling. Sam was our beacon of hope and a light for many.

Samantha Woll's infectious spirit, warmth, and friendship will be sorely missed. Please join me in recognition of Samantha Woll's life and legacy. May her memory be a blessing.

CELEBRATING THE LAS VEGAS ACES FOR WINNING THE 2023 WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate the Las Vegas Aces on winning the 2023 Women's National Basketball Association Finals.

On October 18, 2023, the Las Vegas Aces defeated the New York Liberty, 70-69, in Game 4 of the WNBA Finals. The Aces won the championship three games to one and became the first professional team in Nevada to win two championships. They won despite two of their starters being out with injuries, star guard Chelsea Gray and center Kiah Stokes.

They also became the first WNBA team in 21 years to win consecutive championships.

Hall of Fame head coach Becky Hammon led the team to victory and became the third coach in either the NBA or WNBA to win two championships in her first two seasons.

Even before the playoffs, the Aces had an incredible season, clinching first seed in the playoffs after dominating the regular season with a record of 34-6. They set a new league record for wins and led the league in points per game and field goal percentage.

At home, the Aces went 19-1 in the regular season and undefeated in the postseason, setting attendance records and even hosting the All-Star Game.

Owner Mark Davis and Team President Nikki Fargas proved once again that investing in women's sports is investing in success, thereby setting an example for others to follow.

In the championship-clinching game, Finals Most Valuable Player A'ja Wilson led the way with 24 points and 16 rebounds, while Jackie Young added 16 points and seven assists. And Kelsey Plum delivered a well-rounded performance of eight rebounds, five assists, and seven points. The Aces never trailed in the fourth quarter.

The Aces certainly raised the stakes when securing another championship for Vegas, firmly establishing District One as the Sports Capital of the World.

All of Southern Nevada is very proud and I can't wait to cheer the team on next year as they go for three in a row.

RECOGNIZING BOB GATT'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NOVI

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Gatt, Mayor of Novi, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement. His decades



of tireless service to the city of Novi are worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in Detroit, it was a childhood dream of Bob's to become a police officer. When looking for a position, Bob was saddened to find that most police departments at that time had a height requirement. Luckily for Bob and for Novi, the Novi Police Department had no such requirement. Bob began his service to the City of Novi as a police officer in 1975.

Soon after starting the job, Bob learned about the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. After attending a two-week course and becoming a DARE Officer, Bob

launched the DARE program here in Novi. To this day, Bob teaches DARE to the children of Novi. Bob's leadership within the department led him to be promoted to the role of Detective, later earning the rank of Sergeant shortly before his retirement in 2002.

After spending some time on Novi's Zoning Board of Appeals, Bob decided to run for City Council, a seat he would hold for the next 8 years. In 2011, Bob took the next step and was elected Mayor of the City of Novi. His 12 years at the helm has led Novi to reduce its debt by 75 percent and cut its crime rate in half. Novi has received national recognition for their support of small businesses, community

schools, and technology innovation. In 2022, Fortune Magazine ranked Novi in the Top Ten Best Places to Live for Families in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Bob Gatt and the 48 years of service he has given to the residents of Novi. While he is retiring from local politics, service runs in his blood, and Bob plans to continue as the Manager of the Oakland County Animal Shelter. We thank Bob for his tremendous service and wish him some much-deserved tranquility in this next chapter of life. I thank Bob.