

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF UNDERSHERIFF  
LARRY KOREN

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Undersheriff Larry Koren for his service and sacrifice to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire on July 16, 2022.

Bernalillo County Undersheriff Larry Koren, Lieutenant Fred Beers, and Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison were killed when the agency's helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Rescue Specialist Lieutenant Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department was also killed in the crash.

Bernalillo County Undersheriff Koren was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he lived his life, attended school, and met the love of his life Maria who he married in 1999.

Larry will be remembered as someone who loved to learn but also someone who loved to share his knowledge. He was a distinguished leader as a law enforcement officer with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office as well as a qualified aircraft mechanic and helicopter rescue pilot. His love of aviation started in childhood and he pursued his passion and became a renowned pilot and pioneer for the air support unit for Bernalillo County Sheriffs Office. His contributions to aviation have provided an invaluable resource to the State of New Mexico, saving countless lives, fighting fires, and conducting thousands of law enforcement air support missions.

Larry was also qualified to teach as a licensed elementary school teacher and college instructor. So deep was the breadth of his giving he learned to save people and to teach them.

Larry was a devoted husband and father. The family enjoyed flights in their personal Cessna, camping, hiking, kayaking, and spending time together. Maria was thrilled to walk alongside Larry on their daily walks. Love surrounded them, joy embraced them, and these peaceful memories will rest within her and their sons. Larry is survived by his wife Maria Koren and their sons Justice and Carson Koren.

I didn't know Larry personally. But his life has had a profound impact on mine and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District, which includes San Miguel and Mora Counties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen my communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Larry and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from

their own. I am devastated by the loss of these men but inspired by their service and their sacrifice.

In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Larry's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action for us all to remember.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Undersheriff Koren's will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING DAVID KRAUSE

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Krause for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association and Wheat Ridge LocalWorks' 2023 Connected Citizen Award.

LocalWorks' mission is to make Wheat Ridge a more vibrant and sustainable place to live and work. David Krause was nominated by the community for this award because of his dedication to creating a welcoming environment for everyone in Wheat Ridge. He is always giving back, volunteering for events to help local businesses and his neighbors. A dad of two, Mr. Krause always takes the time out of his busy schedule to try and better his community. He is a great example of what makes Wheat Ridge such a wonderful place to live.

Congratulations to David Krause on his many accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for his continued contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD  
"DICK" VAN WYCK BUEL, JR.

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Dr. Richard "Dick" Van Wyck Buel, Jr. of Essex, Connecticut. Richard passed peacefully at the age of 90. Throughout his life, Richard embraced a love for education and dedicated himself to spreading knowledge all around his community.

Born in 1933 to Richard Van Wyck Buel and Frances Worthington Thompson Buel, Richard learned early on the value of history, a passion he held throughout his life. Richard at-

tended the Groton School and later Amherst College, from which he graduated in 1955. He followed up this astounding educational background by attending Harvard University to earn a doctorate in history.

Richard made a career of his love of history and learning at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, teaching American history for 40 years. Here, Richard chaired the history department from 1977 until 1980. He also served as associate editor at History and Theory for 22 years and received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation for his impressive research. Upon his retirement in 2002, Richard maintained an office at Wesleyan for another ten years, staying involved in the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty and teaching an American intellectual history course for Wesleyan's Prison Education Program.

In addition to his impressive career at Wesleyan, Richard published six books about different historical topics. One of these books, *The Way of Duty*, which he wrote with his wife Joy Day Buel, was modified into the film "Mary Sillman's Way," airing on national television in 1994.

He also edited three books for the Acorn Club, which is focused on producing materials with primary sources that reveal more about Connecticut's history to educate people about the place they call home.

Bringing his passion for history to public service, Richard was President of the New England Historical Association and served on the Connecticut Humanities Council and Connecticut Historical Commission, which later became the Connecticut Historical Preservation Council. Richard also served as an active member of the Connecticut Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History.

Later in his life, Richard focused on serving his local community. Here, he worked with the campaign to finance the expansion of the Essex Library and helped restore the library's endowment after the recession in 2008. Richard kept himself involved in numerous organizations, serving a four-year term on the library board on top of his service on the Chestnut Hill Concerts and Musical Masterworks boards. He was also president of the Essex Meadows Foundation and volunteered for Middlesex Hospice.

In his free time, Richard embraced his proximity to the shoreline and enjoyed sailing, racing a Blue Jay at the Pettipaug Yacht Club and in a fleet of Ideal 18s at the Essex Yacht Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent constituents like Richard. Richard spent his entire life dedicating himself to learning, contributing immensely to our understanding of Connecticut's early history and spreading his passion for knowledge as a beloved teacher and community leader. I had the honor to know him and his wife Marilyn who predeceased him as dear friends and ardent supporters, going back to 2002. His perspective

• 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.

on current affairs, both foreign and domestic, which he shared with me from time to time, was always thoughtful and well informed, which I deeply valued. I ask my colleagues and this Chamber to join me in expressing our deepest respect for Richard's work and life and send our deepest condolences to his family. Richard is survived by his daughter, Margaret and her husband John Coppens, his stepdaughter Elizabeth Frankel and her husband Donald T. Rave III, and his grandchildren Alexandra, Riley, and Haskel. As we memorialize Richard's faithful service to his community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his memory.

CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY JACK-RABBITS FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the South Dakota State University Jackrabbits football team on their second straight win in the Division I Football Championship Subdivision title. SDSU recently defeated the University of Montana Grizzlies 23-3 to secure the national title win.

This season, the Jackrabbits finished undefeated, winning all 15 of their games. Their undefeated season and ability to reach the playoffs for the last 12 seasons shows the players and coaching staff's dedication to success in the sport.

Under the leadership of first-year head coach Jimmy Rogers, the team finished with one of the best FCS defenses of the season and an offense that often outscored opponents by over 28 points on average. I congratulate the team for all their hard work this season and wish them luck as they prepare for another exceptional season this year.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL LEVISON

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison for his service and sacrifice to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire on July 16, 2022.

Bernalillo County Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison, Undersheriff Larry Koren, and Lieutenant Fred Beers were killed when the agency's helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Rescue Specialist Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department was also killed in the crash.

Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison earned his bachelor's degree in Criminology from the University of New Mexico while a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard. He continuously served for over ten years with the New Mexico National Guard, in the 210th Red Horse Squadron, as a combat engineer. He joined the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office as a deputy in 2017. In addition to his daily duties, he served on many other assignments:

the Emergency Response Team, Gang Recognition & Intelligence Patrol, Field Investigator, Crisis Negotiation Team, Field Training Officer, and the Metropolitan Air Support Unit. Michael lived his life serving his community, country, and family.

I didn't know Michael personally. But his life had a profound impact on me and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District of New Mexico, which includes San Miguel and Mora Counties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen these communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Michael and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from their own. I am devastated by their loss but inspired by their service and their sacrifice. In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Michael's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action for us all to remember.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Deputy Sheriff Levison's will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING DAVIS SCHILKEN

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Davis Schilken, PC Law Offices for receiving the Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Business of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Award is given to businesses within our community who exemplify outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community.

Davis Schilken, PC Law Offices has been serving the community for many years. They work with residents in Wheat Ridge by providing information and resources to help people understand and navigate the legal process. Whether these individuals are planning for the future for their family or business, or if they have lost a loved one, the Schilken firm is dedicated to helping people in the Wheat Ridge community understand complex legal matters with creative, cutting-edge resources.

Congratulations to Davis Schilken, PC Law Offices for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I missed these votes due to a personal matter.

Had I been present, I would have voted PRES on Roll Call No. 1-Quorum; NAY on Roll Call No. 2-H. Res. 947; NAY on Roll Call No. 3-H. Res. 947; NAY on Roll Call No. 4-H. Res. 947; NAY on Roll Call No. 5-H. Res. 937; YEA on Roll Call No. 6-H.R. 788; NAY on Roll Call No. 7-H.R. 788; NAY on Roll Call No. 8-S.J. Res. 38; YEA on Roll Call No. 9-H.R. 839; and NAY on Roll Call No. 10-H.J. Res. 98.

CONGRATULATING MADONNA BARNES ON WINNING COMMUNITY LIVING, INC.'S 24TH ANNUAL LEGACY BALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MaDonna Barnes on winning Community Living, Inc.'s 24th Annual Legacy Ball Volunteer of the Year Award.

A resident of O'Fallon, Missouri for over twenty years, MaDonna has demonstrated an outstanding dedication to serving her community. In just six years, MaDonna has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to Community Living in order to improve the lives of those she serves. People like MaDonna remind us that there are many Americans working every day to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing MaDonna Barnes for her achievement.

RECOGNIZING BERKELEY PARK RUNNING COMPANY

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Berkeley Park Running Company for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Berkeley Park Running Company for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 12, 2024, during Roll Call Vote Number 10 on H.J. Res 98, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status", I mistakenly recorded my vote as YEA when I should have voted NO.

I strongly opposed this resolution when it was considered in the Education and Workforce Committee on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, and I signed the minority views opposing the Resolution. I oppose the Congressional Review Act resolution in its entirety and intended to vote NO.

**HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. SANDRA GIOIA TREADWAY, THE 9TH LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA**

**HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible career of the Librarian of Virginia, Dr. Sandra Gioia Treadway, who is retiring after serving in the capacity for the past sixteen years.

The Library of Virginia is one of the oldest government institutions in Virginia and will celebrate its 200th anniversary this year. The Library plays a vital role in the preservation of our Commonwealth's historical documents and manuscripts. Dr. Treadway devoted a total of 45 years to the agency and led it with commitment, poise, and tenacity over the past decade and a half.

Throughout her time as the Librarian of Virginia, Dr. Treadway expertly navigated various challenges and societal transitions that arose, including managing the devastating effects of the 2008 recession and significantly improving access to the Library's resources in our increasingly digital world. She adeptly built and strengthened relationships with the state government and broader library community and spearheaded efforts to ensure the Library meaningfully engaged in statewide commemorations of historical events in our Commonwealth's history. She also played a monumental role in the digitization of countless important historical documents and manuscripts, which will preserve these invaluable pieces for generations to come.

Undoubtedly, Dr. Treadway made a profound impact in the lives of Virginians, bolstering outreach to communities, strengthening our historical research, and promoting the Library's mission and services. She has served our community, Commonwealth, and country with distinction. I commend her on her many accomplishments and wish her happiness in her retirement and best wishes in her next endeavor.

**RECOGNIZING COSMO'S DOG BAKERY**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cosmo's Dog Bakery for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Cosmo's Dog Bakery for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DENZEL BIMPEY**

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Denzel Bimpey was a beacon of joy and positivity in the lives of those around him. His contagious smile, warm spirit, and unwavering kindness touched everyone he encountered. He was a devoted brother, a cherished son, a beloved cousin, and a dear friend to many. His laughter filled rooms and his presence brought light to the darkest of days.

Denzel's brothers referred to him as the star of the family. He was filled with charisma and this personality went perfectly with his wonderful sense of humor, making him an absolute joy to be around. He loved his family just as much as they loved him.

His sister's words encapsulate how important Denzel was to those around him,

"Denzel's light in my life was an emotional masterpiece. He, among my four protectors, stood as a pure-headed soldier, radiating affection in a beautifully unique way. Denzel's sensitivity to emotions, his lack of grudges, and absence of envy made him profoundly special. He was the luminous star in my life, my baby brother, my best friend, my love—the very pulse of my being. May your journey lead you to our ancestors and the heavenly embrace."

His spirit will live on through the love of his family and his community.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I returned home to Green Bay, WI to avoid dangerous travel ahead of the powerful snowstorm affecting the Midwest.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 9, and YEA on Roll Call No. 10.

**RECOGNIZING EM'S ICE CREAM**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Em's Ice Cream for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Em's Ice Cream for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

**CELEBRATING ERWINA WRIGHT'S ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Erwina Wright on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday.

Erwina "Winnie" Wright was born in Lucas Grove, Mason County, Kentucky, on January 13, 1924. The daughter of Richard and Margaret Soward, Winnie grew up on a farm during the challenging years of the Great Depression.

An ardent believer in the value of education both for herself and others, Winnie graduated from Lewisburg High School in Lewisburg, Kentucky, and at a formidable time for women aspiring to a college education, she went on to enroll at the University of Kentucky where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics and organic chemistry.

During the period of World War II, Winnie joined the Civil Quartermaster Corps. This led her to work in the laboratories of Procter and Gamble in Aversdale, Kentucky, where her work advanced our country's defense and war efforts.

As World War II neared its end, Erwina Soward married Goebel James Wright, who at the time was a naval aviator involved in submarine reconnaissance completing his advanced flight training in Lake City, Florida. After the war, Winnie moved back to Kentucky where she and her husband established their home for over half a century in the town of Flemingsburg. It was there that they brought up their children, James Wright and Tevis Ann Keating.

While bringing along her family, Winnie pursued a master's certificate in library science. She employed this in her position at the Flemingsburg Library where she encouraged learning, particularly in children's literacy, for over a quarter century.

After her retirement, Winnie and her husband, first as snowbirds and then as residents, adopted the welcoming community of Sun City Center, Florida, as home. There they established new roots and long-lasting friendships. Since the passing of her husband Goebel, Winnie continues to vibrantly engage in civic and social activities and has enjoyed watching her two grandchildren, Kristen Ann and Patrick Wright Keating, grow.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Winnie, and as her friends and family gathered to celebrate her one hundredth birthday on January 13, 2024, at the Plaza Club in Sun City Center, the U.S. House of Representatives joins in commemorating and congratulating Erwina "Winnie" Wright on the extraordinary achievements of her century long life.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the vote on January 12, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 10.

# RECOGNIZING GETRIGHT'S BAKERY

## HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize GetRight's Bakery for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to GetRight's Bakery for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

# IN MEMORY OF RESCUE SPECIALIST LIEUTENANT MATTHEW KING

## HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rescue Specialist Lieutenant Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department for his service and sacrifice to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire on July 16, 2022.

Rescue Specialist Lt. Matthew King, Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison, Undersheriff Larry Koren, and Lieutenant Fred Beers of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office were killed when their helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico.

I didn't know Matt personally. But his life has had a profound impact on mine and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District, which includes San Miguel and Mora Counties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen my communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Matt and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from their own. I am devastated by the loss of these men but inspired by their service and their sacrifice.

In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Matt's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action for us all to remember.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Rescue Specialist Lt. Matthew King's will never be forgotten.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 9, and "YEA" on Roll Call No. 10.

# RECOGNIZING SHYLOW ATZENBECK

## HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shylow Atzenbeck for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Shylow has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Shylow, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Shylow's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Shylow Atzenbeck on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

# HONORING THE 39TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST

## HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest, hosted by the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Each year, the members of the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated invite community members to gather on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to celebrate and reflect upon his life and his legacy. The pinnacle of this event has become the Youth Oratorical Contest, which brings together students in grades six through twelve for a public speaking competition to honor and celebrate Dr. King's spirit of optimism, public service, racial harmony, and his work to advance human rights through the voices of our youth.

Dr. King had a vision for what our United States of America should be and worked tirelessly toward making it a reality. Our country still faces obstacles that Dr. King fought to remove, and we must recommit ourselves to realizing his vision: "the creation of the Beloved Community."

Dr. King's words continue to inspire our youth, who carry on his legacy and prepare to become the future leaders of our country. Participants in the MLK Youth Oratorical Contest

pay tribute to Dr. King with their ability to communicate with passion and clarity, just as he did. This year, the competition challenged students to deliver speeches addressing the theme, "If America is to remain a great nation, we must..."—inspired by Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech that he delivered on August 28, 1963—on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Six Virginia students presented their reflections on Dr. King's legacy, and they eloquently demonstrated how his words empower them. I congratulate the following finalists and commend them for their participation in the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest: Ashley Gutierrez Garcia—Graham Park Middle School, Rabab Raza—Rippon Middle School, Ebenezer Samuel—Ronald Reagan Middle School, Alyssa Godfrey—Colgan High School, Myles Lanier—Manassas Park High School, and Brooklyn Saunders—Gar-Field High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for showcasing the power of Dr. King's tireless commitment to equality and in congratulating the talented youth of the 2024 MLK Youth Oratorical Contest. Let us learn from our young people and consider how we might honor Dr. King's legacy by seeking justice and leading with light in our own communities.

# HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND GREGORY PERRY

## HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to to honor the life and career of Reverend Gregory Perry of Norwich, Connecticut, who suddenly and sadly passed away this past week. His loss is deeply felt all across the state of Connecticut, because of the enormous, inspirational impact that he made on our community throughout his life. As the pastor of the Greenville Congregational Church, longtime chaplain of Norwich Hospital, chairman of the NAACP's Religious Affairs Committee, and president of the Norwich Area Interfaith Association, Rev. Perry's legacy will be long remembered.

Born in Norwalk, Connecticut in 1952, Reverend Perry's profound spiritualism would manifest early through his involvement at the Grace Baptist Church of Norwalk. He attended Wagner College in Staten Island. While committed to his studies, Rev. Perry met his future wife, Jayne, and they married in 1977. Together, the pair raised three children: Janine, Greg, and Jade. In 1979, Rev. Perry graduated from the Yale Divinity School where he earned two master's degrees.

Rev. Perry was raised as one of four children by a single mother and proved early on to have a tenacious spirit overcoming life's barriers, by teaching himself many basic life skills. Most notably, he taught himself how to put together computers. He combined this skill, with his passion to uplift disadvantaged members of the community, to spearhead a new initiative. "Building Computers for Humanity". Through this program, he provided computers to students of low-income households, who were at that point on the wrong side of

the “digital divide.” Today, access to laptops and the internet are well understood as necessary tools for young people to succeed, by school systems and job training programs. Greg saw this basic need long before; it became commonplace because of his empathy and brilliant intellect. This project typifies just one aspect of the Reverend’s giving spirit.

After entering the ministry, Rev. Perry dedicated his life to providing for his community. At the Greenville Congregational Church, he coordinated impressive community efforts—especially for the annual Martin Luther King Birthday march. He considered the march his “baby,” and invariably looked forward to bringing this event to his community annually. Concluding each march, Rev. Perry would give a speech focused on a common theme: “Different American Realities, Shared American Dreams.” He actively supported interfaith events within the city, such as his participation in the “Way of the Cross” procession, which was an event held along leaders of the Baha’i faith. As president of the Norwich Area Interfaith Association, he and his group met with public officials to advocate for community concerns and conducted public vigils. The Clergy Association is known within the community for its success in carrying out its motto: “Fostering Unity in Diversity in Norwich”.

Moreover, Rev. Perry’s empathetic nature guided him to provide resources for and to connect with those in need. At the Greenville Congregational Church, he opened his services to churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike and spoke with anyone after service. He was known to give money to those who could not afford meals and to offer his home to people without houses of their own.

Working for the equality of all was a tireless pursuit of Rev. Perry, but he also enjoyed his leisure time. He was known for his affinity for motorcycles. He was reported to say that if he had so pleased, he would spend his days riding his motorcycle. Instead, he incorporated the motorcycle into his daily travels. When he arrived at the New London County Bar Association’s Law Day Luncheon to accept the Law Day award, bestowed upon him for his endless efforts to bring unity to his community, he arrived on his beloved motorcycle, winning the prize for the coolest Law Day awardee ever.

The absence of Rev. Perry has been felt by many individuals and groups within and beyond Southeastern Connecticut, in addition to the many members of his family who survive him. I had the distinct privilege to know him as a friend, and joined him at ecumenical vigils, MLK marches, and youth programs year in and year out. No matter how sad the services or challenging the state of the world was, Reverend Perry always had a positive hopeful perspective, grounded I believe in his deep belief in the goodness in people. He was a beautiful soul, who will be sorely missed by his family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gregory Perry now joins the pantheon of great American spiritual leaders who have advocated staunchly for the life, liberty, and happiness of their fellow citizens. He stands shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Isaac Backus, a fellow reverend from Norwich who fought for independence in 1776 and later the codification of civil rights in the newly formed United States. I consider myself immensely fortunate to have represented Rev. Perry as a constituent. His leadership, inclusiveness, and thoughtfulness will be greatly

missed by Connecticut residents, especially those of Norwich. We join in mourning the immeasurable loss of Rev. Perry with his surviving family: his wife, Jayne, and their three children, Janine, Greg, and Jade, their respective spouses and descendants. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Rev. Perry’s example.

#### RECOGNIZING ESTERS PUB

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Esters Pub for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association’s 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Esters Pub for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD “DICK” OVERHEIM

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard “Dick” Overheim. Dick worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Agricultural Marketing Service for 38 years. He passed away peacefully of natural causes on September 24, 2023, at his residence in the District of Columbia.

During the Korean War, Dick served with the 14th Regiment (Golden Dragons) and the 25th Infantry (Tropic Lightning) from 1953 through 1955. He earned the National Defense Service, Good Conduct, United Nations Service and Korean Service Medals.

After his military service, Dick used the GI Bill to attend Gannon College (now Gannon University) in Erie, Pennsylvania. Earning his degree in Business and minoring in Marketing, he later earned his master’s degree in public and international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. While at Gannon, he was a member of the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity and Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities, co-editor of the yearbook and recipient of the Wall Street Journal Award for his work in finance.

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dick was an agricultural marketing specialist at the Agricultural Marketing Service. Dick’s research focused on wholesale marketing facilities and farmers markets. One of Dick’s earliest research projects was in Honolulu, Hawaii. His report on the project, “Wholesale Food Distribution Facilities for Honolulu Hawaii,” was published in 1968.

Dick’s report found that Honolulu’s wholesale food marketing facilities were “unsuitable, outdated and inefficient” for the city’s growing population. Dick found these marketing inadequacies affected not only food wholesalers, but also producers, shippers and consumers,

Dick’s team interviewed food marketers to assess their needs in meeting the demand of Hawaii’s growing population for fresh fruits and vegetables, groceries and other food products.

Dick was essential in the development of the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market in Jessup, Maryland. Dick kept abreast of the rapid technological improvements in the production, transportation and distribution of food products and the changing food marketing system. Dick’s research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture helped keep America’s food marketing system operating efficiently. Dick’s published reports are important historical documents for researchers studying the changing U.S. food marketing system, city planning and the growth of state and local food marketing authorities. For 38 years, Dick played a key role in our ever-changing agricultural marketing system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life and legacy of Richard “Dick” Overheim.

#### RECOGNIZING PASTOR SAMUEL LEE PEPPERS LIFE AND SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Pastor Samuel Lee Peppers and to grieve his passing. A dedicated public servant, his devotion to his community, state, and nation is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

Pastor Samuel was born on October 16, 1949 in Itta Bena, Mississippi as the 2nd of 11 children in the Peppers family. He graduated from Valley State University before furthering his education at the University of Kentucky. After graduating from UK, he was recruited to the University of Michigan to continue his studies, where he eventually was employed in the Printing Department for over 30 years.

Pastor Samuel came to faith at an early age, and when he moved up to the University of Michigan, he found a new home in the Greater Fountain Church of God in Christ in Ann Arbor.

He served there for over 50 years, having been their Pastor since 1995. His motto was “You have to be ‘FAT’: Faithful, Available, and Teachable to Serve the Lord!” Known by many in his community as a “living embodiment of the Word of God”, he was a man of great integrity and wisdom whose influence will be felt long after his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and honoring the life and service of Pastor Samuel Lee Peppers. A spiritual leader to many, his presence will be greatly missed but his memory will live on in his three brothers, six sisters, and a host of nieces and nephews. An avid Michigan sports fan and a long-time season ticket holder, he was certainly smiling down on us as our Wolverines finally won the National Championship in Houston this past Monday. Go Blue.

## RECOGNIZING ONYX SVOBODA

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Onyx Svoboda for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Onyx has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Onyx, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Onyx's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School, and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Onyx Svoboda on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CONGRATULATING BARBARA GRIFFITH ON WINNING COMMUNITY LIVING, INC.'S 24TH ANNUAL LEGACY BALL LEGACY AWARD

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barbara Griffith on winning Community Living, Inc.'s 24th Annual Legacy Ball Legacy Award.

A resident of Saint Charles, Missouri, Barbara began working in the disabilities field in 1978 and has been involved in various capacities with numerous disability service organizations ever since. Serving as Executive Director and then President and CEO of Community Living from 1998 to 2022, her passion has always been to build awareness and bring about positive changes for people with disabilities. People like Barbara remind us that there are many Americans working every day to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Barbara Griffith for her achievement.

## IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT FRED BEERS

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Fred Beers for his service to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire.

Bernalillo County Sheriffs Department Lieutenant Fred Beers, Undersheriff Larry Koren, and Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison were killed when the agency's helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Rescue Specialist Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department was also killed in the crash.

Lt. Beers joined the Bernalillo County Sheriffs office in 2009. During his time there, he served in many roles, including in the metropolitan air support unit, field services, CSI, SVU, violent crimes, the honor guard, and several other units within the Sheriffs Office.

Lt. Beers passionately believed in the importance of the honor guard. Fred visited all over the state to ensure that every fallen officer was recognized and given proper honors. Often, on his own time, he would travel all over the country to honor fallen officers in other states. Every June, for over the last 10 years, Lt. Beers and other law enforcement officers hiked to the summit of the tallest peak in New Mexico in honor of fallen first responders.

Fred was an avid marathoner and even ran the Boston Marathon. He would run over 100 miles a week to keep both physically fit and mentally clear. Lt. Beers was passionate about living a life of service. He served in the United States Air Force as well as in his community as a track and cross-country coach, a Boy Scout leader, a civil air patrol officer, and a volunteer for the Special Olympics.

Fred believed in the importance of family. He had many roles in life, but the ones most important to him were husband, father, son, and big brother.

I didn't know Fred personally. But his life has had a profound impact on mine and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District, which includes San Miguel and Mora Coun-

ties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen my communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Fred and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from their own. I am devastated by the loss of these men but inspired by their service and their sacrifice.

In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Fred's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Lt. Beers' will never be forgotten.

## RECOGNIZING ZACH SIMS

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zach Sims for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Zach has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Zach, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Zach's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Zach Sims on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.