

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KELLY FLAHERTY
CLARK AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Kelly Flaherty Clark has lived in Central Florida for 35 years and is the corporate vice president of animal behavioral well-being and management for SeaWorld and Busch Gardens parks. She has a Master of Science in Biology from Clemson University and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from The Ohio State University. She completed Orlando Political Leadership Institute's curriculum and is a passionate advocate for civil liberties and equality.

Thirty-six years ago, Kelly was one of few women in her field. As one of its first executives, she committed to elevating other women through service on executive boards and committees of zoological professional organizations, such as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Alliance of Marine Animal Parks and Aquariums, and others. She dedicates herself to young women interested in behavioral or biological sciences, never turning down a visit to a science class or a conversation with an aspiring animal professional.

Raised by a woman who, at 86, still cooks for the homeless community Kelly is drawn to public service and philanthropy. She "rings the bell" for the Salvation Army and attends every cause event she can schedule. In 2008, a gala introduced Kelly to Make-A-Wish, which is dedicated to granting the wishes of children facing life-threatening illnesses. She served on their board for 12 years and facilitated the chapter's significant growth in number of children served. Kelly has several professional and community accomplishments but is most proud to have raised two brilliant, successful, and, most importantly, tolerant young men. Casey, 28, and Spencer, 25. The two attended Central Florida's K-12 public schools and graduated from The Ohio State University and Emerson College, respectively. She has been married to her husband, Stewart, for 32 years and will serve her family, community, and profession for as long as she is able.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
JEFFREY JEWETT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Jeffrey Donald Jewett of Galena, Ohio, who peacefully passed away on January 10, 2024 with his family by his side.

Mr. Jewett was born on February 24, 1962, in Columbus, Ohio, to Ron and Barbara

Jewett. He began his career in the electric power industry and founded Jewett Electric Company in 1996. Jewett Electric has continued to provide the Galena community with outstanding professional electrical contracting services under Mr. Jewett's leadership. From an early age, Mr. Jewett was an avid athlete and participated in numerous sports, including football, volleyball, and soccer. He was a lifelong fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Cleveland Browns. Mr. Jewett was also fond of classic cars, particularly Corvettes, Chevilles, and Chargers, and he would always stop to admire them.

Those who knew Mr. Jewett could testify to his love for animals. Along with his wonderful wife Debra, he rescued several puppies from the streets and provided them with a warm, loving home. His selfless efforts made a difference in their lives and shows his dedication to helping those in need. In his final years, he frequently visited his second home in Florida, where he planned to retire. I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing, and I have no doubt that his life and contributions have made a lasting impact on the world.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our nation's Capitol in recognition of Mr. Jewett's compassionate and fulfilling life. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
JAMES FLURRY

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of James Clyde Flurry of Marysville who recently passed away peacefully at the age of 79 years old.

James was an exceptional member of our community, where he spent more than 40 years working for the Marysville Joint Unified School District serving in many different capacities.

James started his career at the young age of 18, where he drove his peers to school, parked the bus, and joined them in class. He always recounted his time as a bus driver very fondly. He went on to work as a teacher, vice principal, and later as a school board member.

James originally hailed from Ukiah, California, and moved to Marysville early in life where he attended Marysville High School and Chapman University.

In addition to working for the Marysville Joint Unified School District, James also spent more than three decades working summers as a field representative for Del Monte Foods.

James loved helping his students, especially those who had a rough home life and needed additional support. He greatly valued community service and was a member of the Crossroads Community Church for over 20 years. He was also an active member of the Linda

Lyons Club and Marysville Exchange, where he enjoyed selflessly volunteering in the community.

James is survived by the mother of his children, Randi Flurry; his children, Jennifer and Greg; two stepsons, Jon and Scott; several grandchildren; and his many family members and friends. He will be greatly missed by our community. May he rest in peace.

HONORING DEBRA BOOTH AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Debra Booth was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and moved to Central Florida at age two. She began her career at AT&T, where she became involved with the Communications Workers of America union and quickly rose through the ranks to vice president of AT&T. Debra became involved with the Central Florida AFL-CIO, which represents labor unions in five counties with over 140,000 workers. The goals were to bring economic and social justice to the workers and community, resulting in a better quality of life for all.

She ascended to the Office of President of the Central Florida AFL-CIO and became the first woman to hold that position, which she held for 12 years. Her main responsibility was to serve the unions and coordinate all the political activities for the Central Florida area. This allowed her to interact with elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels while working on legislation such as a living wage ordinance, anti-discrimination policies, immigration, affordable housing, and local hire policies with Orlando venues.

Debra was then hired by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for a special organizing project to increase market share. The program was so successful in Florida that it now operates in almost every state.

In 2009, she was appointed district director for Florida's Eighth Congressional District, representing Central Florida. In 2011, she opened a political consulting firm representing mostly elected officials in Central Florida. She assisted presidential campaigns with advance work and worked on numerous federal, state, and local campaigns resulting in Orange County becoming a Democratic county with a Democratic majority of elected officials.

In 2017, she was appointed to serve as chief legislative aide to Senator Victor Torres and currently holds this position. Debra has served on numerous boards, including Harbor House Center for Domestic Violence and the executive committee for the Heart of Florida United Way.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE VALIANT SERVICE OF CAPTAIN LARRY TAYLOR

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valiant service of Captain Larry Taylor and his induction into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. Although no longer with us, having sadly passed away on Monday, January 29, 2024, Captain Taylor's legacy lives on through the lives he touched.

Captain Taylor faithfully followed the family tradition of military service. His family's service in both World War I and World War II exposed Captain Taylor to the sacrifices our brave service men and women must endure to protect the homeland. While attending the University of Tennessee, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant upon his graduation in 1966. He qualified as an Army Aviator assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, where he completed over 2000 combat missions as a helicopter pilot.

One particularly dangerous mission illustrated the deep reservoir of bravery that was a hallmark of Captain Taylor's career. In 1968, while deployed in Vietnam, Captain Taylor came to the aid of a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol under immense enemy fire, evacuating them from far behind enemy lines in the dead of night. Captain Taylor was only ordered to lend fire support to the patrol; however, after expending his entire stock of 152 rockets and 16,000 minigun rounds, it was clear the patrol had no hope of escape. Captain Taylor, realizing immediate air evacuation was the patrol's only hope, disobeyed direct orders to fall back and instead landed in the dark jungle to extract the patrol himself. His Cobra attack helicopter flew the entire patrol—clinging to the rocket pods and helicopter skids—to safety.

From my own time as a flight surgeon supporting U.S. Army Rangers, I am intimately aware of the pressures placed upon helicopter support squadrons. However, Captain Taylor's act of bravery over 50 years ago remains a valiant icon to Army aviators. In September of 2023, Captain Taylor was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his act of heroism. Yet, when Captain Taylor was informed by the President of the United States that he was to receive the Medal of Honor, the Captain humbly replied, "I thought you had to do something to receive a Medal of Honor."

After completing his service, Captain Taylor returned to his home state of Tennessee where he ran a sheet metal company in Chattanooga. He was deeply involved as a veteran in his community and generously donated to organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, Habitat for Humanity, and the Railroad Museum. He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Toni, their two sons, Larry and Grady, and five grandchildren.

Captain Taylor's life is a testament to duty and excellence in action, and it is with the greatest honor and respect that I commend his induction as part of the newest class of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame and humbly remember his bravery.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING VALLEY CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the centennial anniversary of The Wyoming Valley Children's Association. For a century, this noble association has been an integral part of our community in Northeast Pennsylvania, providing children with a variety of developmental conditions an inclusive environment to discover and develop into curious learners and compassionate citizens.

Founded in 1924 by members of the Rotary Club of Wilkes-Barre and Community Chest, the Wyoming Valley Children's Association was formed to provide support for children with disabilities. Over the last 100 years, the association has grown to support the needs of children with a wide range of disabilities and developmental delays through fundraisers, specialized programs, events for the children and more.

Today, the Wyoming Valley Children's Association strives to eliminate the effects of developmental delays through therapeutic services and quality education, believing in every child's unique potential. The Together We Grow Preschool is among its most impactful programs as it provides a warm, nurturing atmosphere for children to begin to develop their abilities. The association also offers Early Intervention programs, homebased therapy and education services for children from birth through three years of age.

The association's kindergarten program, which began in 2019, creates an environment rich in learning and social opportunities and features unique, inclusive classrooms focused on individual growth and developmental success for each and every student.

The Wyoming Valley Children's Association has had nothing but a positive impact on our community. For 100 years, the Wyoming Valley Children's Association has been caring for and supporting the children living in the Wyoming Valley and beyond. Its commitment to service, leadership and community has been an inspiration to all. I am honored to recognize the Wyoming Valley Children's Association's many achievements and would like to congratulate its members on this important milestone.

HONORING DEBORAH ANN ASHLEY AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Deborah Ann Ashley was born in Kissimmee, Florida. She attended public schools in Osceola County and graduated from Osceola High School.

After graduation, she was employed by the Osceola County School District as a classroom teacher assistant and later worked in re-

tail at Zayre department store. Deborah is currently employed with the City of Kissimmee Police Department, rising from clerk technician to administrative assistant III.

Deborah served as president of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Unified Mission Ministry, is the director of the Mass Choir, and works with the youth department. She served as president of the Senior Women Ministry in Congress #2 and holds the honor of third vice president of the Senior Women Ministry in the First South Florida Missionary Baptist District Association.

Deborah loves singing and has a passion for service, mission outreach, feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked. She demonstrated her passion by implementing an Annual Free Market that provided necessities to those in need in the community.

Deborah's passion for service flowed over to her job at the Kissimmee Police Department. She participated in the Relay for Life Breast Cancer Walk, was the organizer of the Christmas Angel Tree Projects, and the coordinator of the United Way Bowl-a-Thon for the City of Kissimmee.

While employed with the police department, Deborah received recognitions for Secretary of the Year, Support Person of the Year, Administrative Secretary of the Year, and the Chief's Award. In Christian service, Deborah received a Certificate of Completion from the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church Bible Academy and Recognition for Outstanding Service and Ministry Leadership Award.

Deborah Ashley is the proud mother of three children, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of two.

Deborah will retire on March 29, 2024, after 32 years and three months of dedicated service with the City of Kissimmee Police Department.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOU SEPERSKY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lou Sepersky, whose decades of dedicated public service and visionary contributions have left an indelible mark on New York City. I was privileged to have known Lou for over sixty years, and it was an honor to work with him as a colleague and call him my friend.

As the President of MetroEast, he played a pivotal role in reigniting the momentum for the long-delayed full-build Second Avenue subway. His relentless advocacy and leadership were instrumental in securing support and federal funding for this vital project. Lou's dream for the subway to extend from 125th Street, cutting across Manhattan to Hanover Square, was not just a transportation plan but a vision for connecting and transforming communities.

His deep commitment to public service shone through his extensive involvement with Manhattan's Community Board Six. Serving with distinction for over five decades, he became the longest-serving Community Board Member in the city.

Lou was a fervent advocate for public spaces. He played a key role in creating the

East Midtown Greenway and developing Sutton Place Park, ensuring they were inclusive and enjoyable for all. His contributions were critical in the remapping and expansion of Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza and the creation of Stuyvesant Cove Park.

Lou's dedication to his community and city extended into the political arena as well. He was a delegate at the Democratic National Convention in 1992, a Democratic candidate for the New York State Senate, and a Democratic District Leader in East Midtown, Manhattan.

As we reflect on Lou's remarkable life and legacy, let us remember his humor, his thoughtfulness, and his relentless pursuit of a better and more connected New York. He will be deeply missed, but his contributions will continue to benefit our city for generations to come.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD
FOR BETHANN TELFORD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. BethAnn Telford of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. BethAnn is a true American fighter and fierce advocate for brain cancer survivors.

Since she was young, BethAnn has been involved in numerous sports and other athletic activities. She is most passionate about long-distance running and was inspired to participate in the 2004 Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. Shortly after, she was diagnosed with brain cancer and underwent several surgeries that forced her to relearn how to walk and talk. Thankfully, BethAnn made a full recovery and refused to allow cancer to stop her from training and competing. Since then, she has completed numerous Ironman competitions and Boston Marathons, dedicating each mile she runs to a child she knows who has been affected by brain cancer.

Furthermore, BethAnn has dedicated herself to supporting brain cancer awareness initiatives. She founded Team BT, a nonprofit organization that has raised over a million dollars for brain cancer research. Through her efforts, our scientific community has moved one step closer to finding a cure for brain cancer. In 2017, BethAnn successfully completed the World Marathon Challenge, which requires competitors to finish 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days, becoming one of few people in the world to undergo this amazing feat. For her sportsmanship and participation in this Challenge, she was granted the Peakside Capital Sportsmanship Award. I am proud of the work BethAnn has done to uplift and inspire our community to overcome the most difficult challenges.

It is an honor to bestow BethAnn with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to our Nation. She is a truly extraordinary woman, and I'm confident this will not be the end of her accomplishments.

HONORING ERIC WAGENAAR

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the storied career and continuing service of Watertown's newly appointed City Manager, U.S. Army Retired Colonel Eric Wagenaar.

Mr. Wagenaar is a native of Carthage, New York, and graduated from Canton's St. Lawrence University with a Sociology degree in 1983. Upon his graduation, Mr. Wagenaar joined the Army as an Infantry Officer working primarily in command, training, and operations positions. His time in command ended in 2002 in Baumholder, Germany. In 2009, after 26 years of patriotic service, Mr. Wagenaar retired at the rank of Colonel. Following his retirement, Mr. Wagenaar took on the role of Civilian Plans and Operations Officer for the 10th Mountain Division before being promoted to Fort Drum Garrison's Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security in 2012. In 2015, Mr. Wagenaar was promoted once again to Deputy to the Garrison Commander and performed admirably in this role for 9 years before being named Watertown City Manager.

While serving in his role as Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Mr. Wagenaar's leadership was nothing short of exemplary. He was responsible for many duties on base that kept the day-to-day operations running smoothly and he performed each to the highest level. Whether helping to resolve installation problems, supporting training regimes, or guiding the direction of administrative programs, Mr. Wagenaar fulfilled his duties to the highest of standards.

Throughout his career, Mr. Wagenaar's high quality of work has earned him several honors and awards including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, and the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal. Furthermore, his aptitude in the field has earned him the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and U.S. Army and German Army Airborne Wings.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize U.S. Army Retired Colonel Eric Wagenaar for his decades of patriotic service. I look forward to witnessing his many future successes as Watertown's City Manager.

HONORING DR. ANITZA SAN MIGEL
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Anitza San Miguel's mission is to spark the resting potential within leaders. She guides them to flourish and project their distinctive brilliance, thereby revolutionizing their mindset to realize their ultimate aspirations. She is a loving wife and mother, a scientist, an innovative educator, an author, and a visionary leader.

Dr. San Miguel holds a bachelor's in biology, a master's in biotechnology, and a doctorate in higher education administration. She has served as a dean of Science at Valencia College, Osceola Campus, since moving to Orlando, Florida, in 2016. She is dedicated to the academic and professional success of individuals at all levels.

She has served as a science professor and dean at esteemed institutions in Virginia and Florida. She currently leads a team in Florida's Ninth District with distinction. Her expertise has been recognized at the National Institutes of Health and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Dr. San Miguel's entrepreneurial spirit led her to create ASM Mentors and the empowering podcast "Sacúdete y Toma Acción" or "Shake It Off and Take Action." She is the author of 'Navegador,' a reflective journaling tool, as well as a collection of inspirational coffee table books, "Reignite," "Grow," and "Shine." She has shared her guidance in the "Today's Inspired Latina" and "Today's Inspired Leader" book anthologies. Her eloquence and wisdom make her a coveted speaker, mentor, and coach.

Dr. San Miguel's accomplishments are a testament to her optimism and tenacious spirit. Her dedication to shaping the academic and professional trajectories of emerging leaders encapsulates her passion and commitment to continual self-improvement and fostering limitless growth and excellence.

Dr. San Miguel's pursuit of knowledge and development is persistent. Beyond the public eye, she savors moments with her family, explores new horizons, and engages in the reflective practice of journaling.

CONGRATULATING TRINE UNIVERSITY'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trine University's men's basketball team for winning the 2024 NCAA Division III National Championship.

Trine clinched their 69–61 victory over the top ranked Hampden-Sydney College in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in front of a record crowd. 4,546 spectators witnessed the Thunder become national champions in their first ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

This season, Trine has reminded Hoosiers why we love the game of basketball. They have exhibited all the traits that make the game so compelling. Not only have they excited and entertained their audiences in Northeast Indiana and beyond, but their dedication, hard work, and will to win have inspired them.

I commend each player and coach for reaching the pinnacle of success in their division. I know they will continue to grow and achieve, both on and off the court, with the great support of their community behind them.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA
HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS
WEEK

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of March 25th to March 29th as National Area Health Education Centers Week, or AHEC week.

Southern Nevadans are facing a dire shortage of health care providers, meaning longer wait times, fewer choices, and less access to quality care. To solve this crisis, underserved communities like ours need to expand the resources we offer so that medical providers can learn and grow their careers in southern Nevada.

AHECs are a part of that solution. These centers connect students to local populations, which helps facilitate future engagement and boosts care in our communities. That has been and will continue to be key as we fight to ensure every Nevadan has access to the health care they need.

In just the past five years, the AHEC program has already trained two million health care professionals. Across our state, from Elko to Reno to Las Vegas, the AHEC program is strengthening the future of our health care workforce which will help the collective health of all Nevadans.

That's why I'm proud to support this program and why, year after year, I've fought to secure essential federal investments in the national AHEC program.

On behalf of my constituents at the Nevada AHEC program, their national counterparts, and the thousands of Americans who benefit from the care fostered by AHECs, I am proud to recognize this National Area Health Education Centers Week.

I thank all of them for their dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

HONORING SHERRY HOOPER AND
HER SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherry Hooper, the retiring Executive Director of The Food Depot. Sherry understands that food and nutrition are as essential to who we are as humans, as they are to who we are as a community.

Her dedication to building community while feeding the hungry in Northern New Mexico for over a quarter-century has nourished so many. New Mexicans benefited from the experience, compassion, and energy she developed in Kansas and Missouri when she chose our state and The Food Depot.

Under Sherry's leadership and capital campaign, The Food Depot grew from a 5,000 square-foot warehouse to the current 27,000 square-foot location. In 2023, The Food Depot distributed more than 7.4 million meals across Northern New Mexico, valued at \$11.3 million. The distribution also now includes nine northern New Mexico counties.

I've personally joined the hundreds of volunteers who bag and distribute hundreds of tons of food daily. Volunteers contributed over 21,976 hours for savings of \$685,837 in payroll last year and put into practice the concept of love that is inspired by Matthew 25—"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

Importantly, fruits and vegetables made up 62 percent of all food provided, making it possible for underserved communities to receive nutrient-rich foods. In fact, this year, The Food Depot is celebrating 30 years of commitment to healthy communities and innovative programming.

Sadly, Sherry's tenure ends in June of this year. She leaves the organization with a strong future. Following in her footsteps will be Jill Dixon, the current Deputy Director, whom Sherry has mentored since 2012.

I am happy that, thanks in part to Sherry's work, Congress recently approved my request for \$84,150 in Community Project Funding for The Food Depot to expand the Casita de Comida in Española—one of my district's most underserved communities where food insecurity runs high. Casita de Comida provides healthy and culturally appropriate food as well as personal hygiene products for free. Sherry and her team presented a compelling project that my colleagues and I wholeheartedly supported.

I offer Sherry our deepest gratitude for the difference she has made. I wish her many interesting new ventures and know she will be a positive force in every avenue of her life in the future.

HONORING AMBER ADAMS AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Amber Adams is the Osceola County regional president and senior vice president for SouthState Bank. She has worked in the banking industry for over 21 years and spent the last 12 years working in Osceola County, Florida. During her time in the Osceola County community, she has served as the chair of the Poinciana Area Council Board, chair of the Poinciana Medical Center Board of Trustees, advisory board member for the Poinciana YMCA, chair of finance for Community Vision, and is a graduate of Leadership Osceola. Amber currently serves in various organizations, including as a board member of the Osceola County Education Foundation and a champion trustee of the Osceola Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Adams is an active member of the Rotary Club of Kissimmee and is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow recipient. She has chaired the annual Operation Outdoor Freedom charity sporting clay shoot for the Rotary for the past three years. This event has raised over \$150,000 for Florida wounded veterans. It is the largest fundraiser for Operation Outdoor Freedom—an organization supported by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the Florida Forest Service. It provides recreational and rehabilitative activities to wounded veterans.

Amber is proud to work for a company with strong core values that support her efforts to give back to her community. She is also thankful for her husband, Robert, and two daughters, Madison and McKenzie, who have spent numerous hours volunteering for these great organizations alongside her. She is committed to continuing to do her part in making Central Florida and her local community a better place.

ALEK RICHARDSON, RECIPIENT OF
THE 2024 EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a very special constituent, Alek Richardson, whose unwavering optimism and unshakable courage will be celebrated on March 27 at the Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties' 2024 Celebration Awards. A resident of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, Alek is this year's deserving recipient of the organization's Education Achievement Award.

On December 9, 2023, Alex received a standing ovation at Slippery Rock University's commencement ceremony when he accepted his certificate for completing the requirements of the school's Rock Life program, a post-secondary education program for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Alek's journey to that moment was nothing short of momentous. Born in Ukraine, his devoted mother, Jean Richardson, recalls: "The miracle story started nearly 30 years ago, when a social worker in Ukraine placed a 4.7-pound infant in my hands and said, 'If you do not take him, he will die here.'"

Upon arrival in the United States, the struggling infant was airlifted to a hospital and given little to no chance of survival. But Alek had other plans.

Five surgeries and six weeks later, Alek was taken off life support. Despite suffering apraxia to his brain—the result of permanent brain damage due to malnutrition, premature birth and significant medical trauma—Alek showed a resounding resilience that was nurtured over the past three decades by a selfless Jean, his champion and cheerleader for life.

Slippery Rock University's motto encourages students to live like a ROCK (Resilient, Optimistic, Courageous and Kind). Alek Richardson has embodied these noble traits since birth. I congratulate Alek—and his mother, Jean—for the inspiration they've instilled across Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LATE MS. DORIE
ANN LADNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a remarkable activist, Ms. Dorie Ladner, a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement.

Ms. Dorie Ann Ladner, born on June 28, 1942, in Hattiesburg, MS, demonstrated remarkable courage from an early age. She was deeply involved in civil rights in Mississippi, joining the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as a teenager. Ladner left college three times to organize voter registration campaigns for several counties and towns, including Canton, Hinds County, Indianola, Liberty, McComb, and Natchez, MS, and promote integration.

Her journey took a turn in 1961 when she was expelled from Jackson State University for supporting the Tougaloo Nine. This setback only fueled her determination, leading to her enrollment into Tougaloo College. She studied history and political science there and was inducted into the Gamma Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Ladner's legacy is a testament to her unwavering commitment. Her accomplishments were numerous, ranging from being the first female employee of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) Jackson office to planning the Mississippi Freedom Summer and helping to coordinate the 1963 March on Washington. As a civil rights crusader, her commitment to justice was significant. Let us honor her legacy and ensure it continues to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Ms. Dorie Ann Ladner for her dedication to civil rights and racial equity.

THANKING HUD SECRETARY
MARCIA FUDGE FOR HER PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sincere and best wishes to U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Marcia Fudge, as she concludes her public service to our great Nation.

Before Secretary Fudge joined the Biden Administration, we served together as part of the Ohio Congressional Delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives for twelve years. I was proud to work alongside her to meet our shared goals on a number of issues, including housing opportunities for low and moderate-income families, as well as combating the opioid epidemic in Ohio.

As Secretary, we continued our strong relationship, and her leadership has benefitted HUD projects across the country, including in my district.

Secretary Fudge's steadfast career in public service, beginning as Mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, is an example for all of us who work to serve our communities and our Nation.

I thank Marcia for her friendship and her long and distinguished public service to the people of Ohio, and the United States of America. I wish her a happy, healthy, and productive retirement.

HONORING MIA POINSETTE AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CEN-
TRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mia Poinsette is an award-winning disruptive philanthropist and respected community leader. She is the founder and executive director of the Poinsette Foundation, a self-funded nonprofit that invests in ideas that empower underestimated women and children of color. Since launching in 2022, the foundation has helped thousands of Central Florida families through more than 80 community partners.

In Osceola County, the foundation's contributions include sponsoring nearly 60 children at the Kissimmee and St. Cloud Boys and Girls Club during the holiday season. In addition, the "The Poinsette Foundation Team Space" in Osceola, Oak Ridge, and Ocoee High Schools collectively supports nearly 1,000 students enrolled in the Junior Achievement 3DE program.

Mia demonstrates additional commitment to her community by serving as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of Osceola County, Women United, the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council, Women's Executive Council, and Women on the Rise. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer also appointed Mia to serve on the Mennello Museum of American Art's Board of Trustees.

Mia graduated from multiple leadership programs, including the Black Boardroom Leadership Institute's 2022 leadership track, Leadership Orlando Class 103, and the 2023 ATHE-NA NextGen Cohort. She is currently enrolled in Leadership Osceola.

Recognized for her impactful footprint in the community, Mia is the recipient of the Osceola Magic Change Maker award, Heart of Florida United Way's 2023 Change Maker: Women United Impact award, the Women's Executive Council's 2023 Women of Achievement: Central Florida Influencer award, Women on the Rise's 2023 Community Impact Leader award, and Women on the Rise's 2023 Inspirational Deeva award.

Mia earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and is pursuing a graduate degree in government at Harvard University.

Happily married with two children, Mia is also a violinist and an avid traveler in her free time.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT
KASULKE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and celebrate the life of Major General Robert J. Kasulke, M.D.

Robert was born on June 12, 1949 in Queens, New York to two proud parents, Francis and Florence Kasulke. He would grow

up and graduate from Archbishop Molloy High School in Jamaica, New York before going on to attend Fordham University and graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1971. He continued his academic journey attending SUNY Upstate Medical University where he graduated in 1975 and went on to receive his master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs the following year. Dr. Kasulke also attended the United States Army War College and graduated in 1999.

On May 3, 1975, Robert married Catherine O'Connell, the love of his life, at Fordham University Chapel. The couple lived in the Bronx where Dr. Kasulke did his residency in general surgery at Montefiore Health and Hospital Center. After completing his residency, he and Mrs. Kasulke moved to Columbia, MO where he completed his fellowship in vascular surgery at Columbia Health and Science Center. He moved to Saranac Lake in 1983 and later to Watertown in 1989 where he practiced at the Good Samaritan and Mercy Hospital until 1991. He continued his academic journey attending SUNY Upstate as a medical professional in Upstate New York serving in a variety of different manners and was, at the time of his death, the Medical Director of Hospice of Jefferson County, the Medical Director of Jefferson County Public Health Service, and the Jefferson County Deputy Medical Examiner.

In addition to his medical work, Dr. Kasulke also served in the Army Reserve from 1980 to 2012. Even after his retirement from the Reserve, Dr. Kasulke continued his staunch support for the Armed Forces, being appointed an Army Reserve Ambassador in 2013 and to the Chief of Staff Army Retiree Council in 2017.

His hard work and perseverance led him to be a pivotal piece in arranging community activities, including leading many "We Honor Veterans" ceremonies honoring those who fought for our freedom. Furthermore, Dr. Kasulke was a member of Elks Lodge No. 496 and the Italian American Club showing his commitment to our community.

In addition to serving his country and his community, Robert dedicated time to his family. He could often be seen at one of his three grandchildren's sporting or school events. He was known for his collection of antique soldiers and model trains as well as his enjoyment for woodworking.

Robert lived a full life that demonstrated his utmost dedication to his country, his community, and his family. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Robert Kasulke.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF BATTERY COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of Battery Council International or commonly known as BCI. In March of 1924, 25 firms launched the National Battery Manufacturer's Association—the group that would eventually become Battery Council

International. Since then, BCI has been the leading trade association for unlocking the potential of energy storage and supporting the commercial integration of essential products. BCI members are committed to safe, responsible battery manufacturing and sustaining the world's most successful circular economy.

The domestic lead battery industry is an American manufacturing story that should make us all proud to be a part of. The industry in the United States has more than 165 GWh of manufacturing capacity, 39 lead battery manufacturing facilities, over 250,000 lead battery collection and distribution sites, and 9 lead battery recycling facilities. Lead batteries have a nearly 100 percent recycling rate, an industry sustainability achievement deserving of our recognition.

The U.S. battery industry powers roughly \$8.1 trillion worth of domestic industrial economic output annually, or roughly 20 percent of the U.S. economy. Forty-eight million jobs are related to or reliant on the battery industry and related downstream businesses. And the industry continues to invest to meet the future.

The batteries made by BCI members over the past century have powered nearly a billion vehicles in the U.S. alone—a staggering contribution to American mobility. Fifty percent of the world's energy storage capacity is reliant on lead batteries, which are a particularly vital part of virtually every industry sector, including transportation, traditional vehicles, electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles emergency and remote power, data centers, telecommunications, and renewable energy storage.

I am especially proud of the work of East Penn Manufacturing, which is the largest single-site, lead battery facility in the United States. East Penn is located in my former congressional district in Lyons, Pennsylvania, and employs over 10,000 people.

The President and CEO of East Penn, Chris Pruitt, leads this important company with its remarkable workforce in our state, and also currently serves as the Chairman of the Board for Battery Council International.

The battery industry continues to be vital for our economy, our low carbon future, and our manufacturing sector, as well as the many industries that rely on energy storage.

I would like to congratulate my friend and BCI board chair, Chris Pruitt, as well as BCI President, Roger Miksad, and all of the members on the 100th Anniversary of Battery Council International.

HONORING THE WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Woodside High School Men's Basketball Team from Newport News, Virginia on becoming the Virginia High School League's Class 5 State Champions.

On Saturday, March 9, 2024, the Woodside Wolverines won the Class 5 State Championship Game against the Lloyd C. Bird Skyhawks with a score of 53–33. This is the second year in a row that Woodside High School has claimed a state championship title.

Led by Coach Stefan Welsh, the Wolverines closed their season with a record of 27 wins and 1 loss.

The Wolverines and Skyhawks battled throughout the first and second quarters for an advantage. At the end of the second quarter, though, the Wolverines went on a 9–0 run positioning themselves into a 23–15 lead by half-time. The Wolverines then expanded their lead in the second half creating as much as a 23-point lead on their opponents. The Wolverines were able to defend this lead throughout the rest of the game and ultimately win the championship.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate the Woodside High School Basketball Team and thank Coach Welsh, the parents, and the entire Woodside High School community for supporting these students throughout the season. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I wish the program continued success.

HONORING SOL ORTEGA AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Sol Ortega was born in Peru and migrated to Kissimmee when she was seven years old. Her parents, Esther Rivasplata and David Ortega, created a life in Central Florida where they contributed to the growing tourism economy. Her family's immigration journey and sacrifices inspired Sol to pursue a career in public service to give back to the community she grew up in. While she was young, she participated in community service projects through the local YMCA, becoming a mentor for Bookmark Buddies through the Education Foundation of Osceola County, and, while in high school, volunteered in Teen Court, a program to divert less serious juvenile cases away from the more formal Juvenile Court.

During her time at Professional and Technical High School, she enrolled in the dual enrollment program where she attended Valencia College. Thanks to this program, she was able to earn her associate degree and high school diploma at the same time. She then moved to Gainesville, Florida, to attain her bachelor's degree in political science and Latin American Studies—making her the first in her family to graduate from a four-year institution.

During her time at the University of Florida, Sol advocated for immigrant issues and completed a fellowship in the Florida State Capitol. Sol then moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue an internship in Congress and worked in service of Florida's Ninth Congressional District, providing vital support for constituents, including during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Sol now works at the White House Office of Public Engagement, conducting outreach to the broader Latino community.

Ms. Ortega's leadership has allowed her to represent Central Florida and Kissimmee proudly. She will continue to work towards creating spaces for her community to be heard and represented at all levels of government, with the goal of building a better community.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN W.B. WILSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader and devoted public servant. W.B. Wilson—the “Workhorse of Williamsburg County”—transitioned from this life on March 15, 2024. His rich sense of humor, wisdom, and optimistic spirit will be sorely missed.

Councilman Wilson dedicated his life to serving others. He was elected to the Williamsburg County Council in 1994 and immediately got to work improving the county's roads, many of them rural roads that had never been paved.

W.B.'s proudest achievement was improving access to clean water in the county. After his father died from kidney disease directly connected to unsafe drinking water, W.B. made it his mission to ensure others in his community did not suffer the same fate. As a result of various USDA grants and loans he helped secure, Williamsburg County now has abundant access to clean drinking water. It was through his efforts to improve the essential infrastructure of Williamsburg County and his various other talents that W.B. earned his reputation as a natural leader.

In addition to his work on the Williamsburg County Council, W.B. was actively involved in the South Carolina Association of Counties, the Williamsburg County Billing Committee, the Community Emergency Response Team, the Hemingway High School band and athletic booster club, and many other organizations. He also served on the boards of various community organizations and volunteered as a firefighter.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Verlena Dicker Wilson, daughter, P. Jeanette Simon, son, Andre Wilson, brother, Samuel C. Wilson and sisters, Fannie Smith and Valtricia Cunningham.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Councilman Wilson. Over the course of W.B.'s long career of service, there wasn't a person in Williamsburg whose life he didn't touch. His decades of work improving the lives of the people of Williamsburg will resonate for years to come.

HONORING DR. PETER STONER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a White Freedom Rider from Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. Peter Stoner.

Dr. Peter Stoner, is a courageous Civil Rights Freedom Rider and a genuine American hero. His selfless dedication to the Civil Rights Movement, particularly his role as a white Freedom Rider, significantly influenced the course of history, contributing to the passage of the Civil Rights Voting Act of 1966.

Dr. Stoner's commitment to justice and equality demonstrated through his role as a

white Freedom Rider, played a pivotal role in shaping history and leading to the enactment of the Civil Rights Voting Act of 1966. Despite enduring beatings, imprisonment, and defying discriminatory laws by marrying outside his race, Dr. Stoner's unwavering determination has left an indelible mark on our Nation's history.

Beyond his activism, Dr. Stoner's extraordinary actions include enduring physical assaults, facing imprisonment, and challenging discriminatory laws by marrying outside his race. His sacrifices, along with those of his family, are evident in their encounters with challenges, such as the denial to partake in the estate of Pearl K. Stoner.

At the age of 83, Dr. Stoner resides in Jackson, Mississippi, caring for his wife, who is currently receiving care in a skilled nursing home following a debilitating stroke.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Peter Stoner's contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.

HONORING JANELLE DUNN AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Janelle Dunn is the chief executive officer of True Health, a non-profit federally qualified health center serving low-income and underserved populations within Orange and Seminole Counties. Mrs. Dunn obtained a master's degree in health administration from the University of Central Florida and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Loyola University New Orleans. She is a certified medical practice executive through the Medical Group Management Association, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Leadership Seminole Class 32, and a proud wife and mother.

Mrs. Dunn's tenure with True Health began in 2012 when she was a center manager. She has held the roles of director of operations and chief operations officer before being appointed CEO amid the global pandemic in 2020. Under Mrs. Dunn's leadership, True Health has grown from seven locations to nine, added two new pharmacies and an optometry and optical department, and acquired the Healthy Start program for Orange County to provide services for mothers and babies. Mrs. Dunn is an advocate for access to healthcare and believes in the innovation and implementation of creative solutions to existing challenges. As illustrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, True Health was the only FQHC in Central Florida to operate a monoclonal infusion center, which allowed patients to recover at home and avoid the hospital.

Mrs. Dunn's transformative leadership has been celebrated with prestigious recognitions, including the 2021 CEO of the Year and 2020 Diversity in Business awards from the Orlando Business Journal. In 2023, True Health was honored as the Healthcare Business of the Year by the Seminole County Chamber of Commerce and recognized as one of the Top 100 Women-Led Organizations in Florida by The Women's Edge. In January 2024, True

Health received the Humanitarian Award from the City of Sanford's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Steering Committee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2024, I missed Roll Call votes. Had I been present I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 92, and NAY on Roll Call No. 93.

RECOGNIZING JOE MISLINSKI'S
SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND
THE 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the outstanding contributions and public service of Mr. Joe Mislinski.

Joe Mislinski is as a distinguished graduate of the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, Class of 1978. A trailblazer in his own right, Joe was part of the inaugural class that permitted members to select specialties beyond combat-arms, choosing the Ordnance Corps. Notably, Joe became the first CSMA graduate to attend the joint service Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) school, reflecting his courage and readiness for challenging assignments.

Joe served with distinction throughout his active-duty tenure, including deployments in the United States supporting the Secret Service and in Germany with the Combat Engineers in the 3rd Armored Division during the Cold War. Joe exhibited unwavering commitment to national defense and global security, championing America's priorities on the world stage.

Following his military service, Joe continued to epitomize the values of Duty, Honor, Country as an active member of the West Point Society of Chicago. Over two decades, in various capacities, including serving as board member and ultimately president, Joe was dedicated to mentoring new cadets and fostering connections among West Point alumni in Chicago.

Joe has also served as chair of my Military Service Academy Selection Committee for the 10th Congressional District. As Representative for the 10th District of Illinois, one of my most significant responsibilities is nominating students to our Nation's esteemed military academies. Since my first term in the 113th Congress, Joe has generously volunteered his time and extensive institutional knowledge to assist me in interviewing and ultimately nominating our future military leaders.

As Joe embarks on a new chapter with his family in Connecticut, his commitment to service remains undiminished, as he will serve as coordinator for admissions to West Point for the state of Connecticut. Joe's legacy will continue to inspire us all, underscoring the profound influence of one individual on our com-

munities. Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude to Joe Mislinski for his distinguished service to the Nation, the 10th District of Illinois, his tireless efforts in support of West Point, and his continued commitment to excellence in all endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TERESA
DARLENE MCDOWNEY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Teresa Darlene McDowney, who passed away on Thursday, February 22, 2024. She was born on July 15, 1971.

She was employed with the King George Sheriff's Office as an Animal Control Officer from 2013 to 2020 and was employed with the Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office at the time of her passing. While with the Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office, she served as the Animal Shelter Manager, Animal Control Officer, and Animal Advocate. In every position, Teresa was a dedicated worker. Even when she was not working with the Sheriff's Office, she would often answer text messages about dangerous dogs in the middle of the night and help the community with animal related matters.

Teresa was often described as a sweet and kind lady, often assisting her family, friends, and the community. While Teresa was a genuinely kind and sweet natured person, she was also very straightforward—leaving little room for misinterpretation. If Teresa said it, she meant it. She was a protector of her family and what was right.

Teresa leaves to cherish her precious memory, her husband, Kevin McDowney of Colonial Beach, VA, and son, Nathaniel Pittman of Williamsburg, VA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the life of Teresa McDowney. May God bless her family and her community during this time.

HONORING SONYA STALNAKER AS
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Sonya Stalnaker is a Union commercial painter by trade. She started in 2001 as an apprentice and completed the Painter's apprenticeship of the IUPAT in 2005. She has spent her last 23 years dedicated to her Union, her family, and doing what she loves: painting and helping others.

She has served in the capacity of shop steward on the job and part-time instructor at the Painter's apprenticeship. Working hard and coming up in the ranks, she served as Financial Secretary in Local 1010 for the previous 5 years. She was the Commercial Paint Coordinator for the Florida Finishing Trades (Painter's apprenticeship) from 2021 to 2023.

Last year, she ran for President and won the election becoming the first woman President for Local 1010. In 2018, she was elected President of Central Florida's Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

She strides every day to teach, educate, and do what needs to be done to help make a difference in her Union, home, and her community. She is a selfless type of person that does all she can to be better so that she can continue doing the work that needs to be done, helping those in need and fighting THE GOOD FIGHT.

HONORING NINA PLAUSHIN

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nina Plaushin, Vice President of Federal Affairs and Regulatory Strategy at ITC, the largest independent transmission company in the U.S.

Nina is retiring after more than 25 years of dedicated service, managing the twists and turns of congressional and regulatory policy.

During this time, Nina was known as a leader in the industry, always to be consulted for her expertise and deep breadth of knowledge.

She has served various roles within industry groups, including as President of the WIRES Coalition, President of Americans for Clean Energy Board Grid Board and Chair the EEI Energy Delivery Executive Advisory Committee.

Before her illustrious work at ITC, she served as Legislative Director for Congressman Thomas C. McMillen, another figure larger than life—quite literally.

Nina's leaving a lasting legacy at ITC and on American energy more broadly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nina Plaushin for her outstanding career.

Her retirement marks the end of an era of exceptional service and leadership.

We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIVES OF OFFICER ALLEN LEE HARMON AND OFFICER OTIS LEE ROBISON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lives of fallen officers Allen Lee Harmon and Otis Lee Robison of the Lincoln Police Department.

November 16th will mark the 50th anniversary of Officer Harmon and Officer Robison's paying the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty. On November 16, 1974, the two men tragically lost their lives.

On November 15, 2024, the City of Lincoln will hold a remembrance event at Lincoln City Hall to honor the lives of Officer Harmon and Officer Robison.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering Officer Harmon and Officer Robison and honoring them for their brave service and dedication to their community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. AMY BUSH

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Amy Bush for her dedicated service to the Hanford community and to congratulate her on her well-earned retirement as Head Coach of the Sierra Pacific High School Girls Basketball Team. Mrs. Bush, a teacher at Kings River Hardwick Elementary School in Hanford, became the Head Coach of the Sierra Pacific High School Girls Basketball program in 2015. Under her leadership, the Golden Bears have won an impressive 213 games and maintained a winning percentage of almost 80 percent. Over the past nine seasons, the Golden Bears have also earned two undefeated Tri-County Conference Championships and six East Sequoia League Championships. In 2017, the team won their first California Interscholastic Federal (CIF) Section Championship and advanced to the CIF Semi-Finals. Just one year later, Mrs. Bush led the team to victory at the CIF State Southern Regional and Division V State Championships—the first in Sierra Pacific High School's history. During her tenure, Mrs. Bush has received numerous awards to recognize her accomplishments as Head Coach. In 2018, she was named the Cal-Hi Sports Division V State Coach of the Year. Two years later, she earned the CIF Central Section National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coach of the Year and was nominated for Federation's State NFHS Coach of the Year. This season, Mrs. Bush has been honored as the Tri-County Conference Co-Coach of the Year. In addition to her achievements on the court, Mrs. Bush has worked hard to ensure the Golden Bears are active in the Central Valley community. Over the years, the team has put together several donation drives to support local residents, including drives to support the families of fallen firefighters and police officers. The team also volunteers every year at the Episcopal Church of the Savior Parish Soup Kitchen. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the team donated food

items to the Kings Pantry to give back to local families. The success of the Sierra Pacific High School Girls Basketball Team is a true testament to Mrs. Bush's character and dedication to the program. While she will be missed as Head Coach, I am confident that her leadership will have a lasting impact on the Golden Bears for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mrs. Amy Bush for her dedication to the Sierra Pacific High School Girls Basketball Team and the Central Valley. I wish her a happy and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING JESSICA PAUL AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Jessica Paul is a St. Cloud resident and local business owner, who advocates for the needs of all members of her community.

As a lifelong resident of the Whitted Historic Community, the Paul roots run deep, in Osceola County. She is a phenomenal mother to her handsome son, Jase.

Jessica works to unite voices big and small and has extensive experience connecting elected officials to pressing developmental issues facing the Whitted Historic Community, including environmental concerns that directly impact quality of life. Jessica serves on the Osceola County CDBG Citizens Advisory Task Force for District 5, ensuring every voice gets heard. She is also an active member of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church of Narcoossee.

Personally, she takes an active volunteer role in coordinating local events for the Markus Paul Foundation, which honors her late cousin, a hometown hero and NFL legacy. Jessica is passionate about making a positive impact on her community through this foundation.

Jessica and her twin sister were showcased as part of Spectrum News 13's Everyday Hero and a video spotlight series presented by Experience Kissimmee. The feature highlighted their positive reputation for being good neighbors and contributing to the well-being of their community.

Jessica finds solace and joy by spending quality time with her supportive family. She attributes her unwavering dedication and drive to her parents, Larry and Karen Starke Paul, who taught her and her siblings the importance of hard work and compassion.