

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GIL CORONADO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Gil Coronado.

Born in Corpus Christi and raised in the barrios of San Antonio, Col. Coronado is a shining example of the American Dream. Overcoming a childhood marked by adversity, Col. Coronado has gone on to spend the entirety of his adult life dedicated to both public service and the advancement of Hispanic cultural appreciation.

Orphaned at the age of five, and a self-described “product of the streets,” Col. Coronado decided to alter the direction of his life by enlisting in the U.S. Air Force at the age of 16. Col. Coronado served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and completed tours of duty in Spain, Germany, and Panama. For his service, he was awarded a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and a Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1985, Col. Coronado was assigned to the Inter-American Defense Board. It was there that Col. Coronado came to work closely with members of Congress to push for the expansion of efforts to honor the unique contributions of Hispanics to American history. In 1988, Col. Coronado’s efforts came to fruition when this chamber invited him onto the floor to watch the bill that created Hispanic Heritage Month, which he helped create, pass unanimously. Later that year, President Reagan invited Col. Coronado to the White House Rose Garden as he signed the bill into law, taking time to recognize Col. Coronado as “a stout defender of Hispanic Heritage and the United States of America.”

Col. Coronado went on to continue blazing trails for Hispanic Americans when he was appointed as the first Hispanic director of the Selective Service System in 1994. Under his tenure, he pushed for a 100 percent compliance rate and worked to educate the public on the importance and benefits of registering for the Selective Service. He retired as Director of the Selective Service System in 2001 and returned to San Antonio, where he resides to this day.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the honorable achievements of Col. Gil Coronado. San Antonio is proud to be home to the “padrino” of Hispanic Heritage Month. May God bless him and his family for all their years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF PASQUALE F. CANCELLA

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life and the dedicated service of Pasquale F. Cancellia.

Pasquale Cancellia was born in Troy in 1921, after the end of the First World War. As he grew from a boy into a young man, he found our Nation in conflict with the start of the Second World War. Just six days after his Nation came under attack, Pasquale enlisted in the United States Navy. He was only 20 at the time. There, he did his duty with great distinction, earning a variety of medals for his impeccable conduct and his service around the world aboard the USS *William Seiverling*. The Navy took Pasquale to Hawaii, to the Philippines, to Iwo Jima, and to Okinawa. By war’s end, he had risen to the rank of Yeoman, Third Class, in recognition of his efforts.

After his honorable discharge in late 1945, Pasquale returned home to his wife Elizabeth and his family. However, his service to the United States was not yet at an end. In addition to a second tour in the Navy which ended in 1955, Pasquale served in the New York National Guard as a Staff Sergeant with the 105th Infantry Division.

Pasquale also served his community when not wearing a uniform. A man of great faith, he filled numerous crucial roles at St. Patrick’s Church of Troy. Proud of his naval background, Pasquale was active in his local chapter of the VFW, a longtime member of the Tibbitts Cadets, a volunteer aboard the USS *Slater*, and an advocate for the Destroyer Escort Historical Foundation. Pasquale, a father of six and a grandfather of twenty, found his work with children as a Boy Scout troop leader and a Babe Ruth baseball league manager to be especially rewarding.

Pasquale lived a life full of service to those around him, whether that was his national community or his neighborhood one. On behalf of New York’s 21st District, I am pleased to recognize his extraordinary life.

IN MEMORY OF DEACON KENNETH
FLORENCE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving father, a doting grandfather, dedicated community servant and committed man of God, Deacon Kenneth Florence. Sadly, Deacon Florence passed from labor to reward on March 13, 2024. A homegoing service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held on March 23, 2024, at the Second Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

The genesis of the life of Deacon Florence began on November 13, 1952, with his birth to the union of the late Bernard and Willard Florence in Clewiston, Florida. He was raised from birth by the late Georgian Fudge of Sanford, Florida.

Deacon Florence was educated in the Florida Public School System where he graduated in 1972 from Seminole High School. After graduating from high school, he began his lifelong love of service by enlisting in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1974.

He relocated to what would become his second home, Albany, Georgia. He attended the ASU West Campus, formerly known as Darton College, before being employed at Proctor and Gamble for 27 years.

At an early age he gave his life to Christ and joined Morning Glory Missionary Baptist Church. After his move to Albany, he joined Second Mount Zion Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Theodus Drake, Jr. Deacon Florence truly understood that you can only serve God by serving his people. Deacon Florence demonstrated his love for God by serving in various ministries at the church to include Sunday School Superintendent and as the head of the Security Deacons’ Ministry, Executive Ministry, Transportation Ministry and several youth ministries.

Deacon Florence also understood that his service and love for God had to extend beyond the church walls. His love for community was evident by his involvement in many social and civic organizations to include Albany Community Builders, the NAACP, Black Voters Matter, Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful, SOWEGA Rising, the 26 Club, Masonic Lodge, Little League baseball coach and various other organizations. It has been said that “Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy here on this Earth.” Deacon Florence paid his rent and he paid it well. He never met a stranger and treated people how they deserved to be treated. Dr. George Washington Carver once said “How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.” Deacon Kenneth Florence could interact with people from all walks of life and make them feel special. He was special and his legacy will live on through all the people and organizations that he touched in his special way.

Deacon Florence accomplished so much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his family, friends, and church members who will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian, and me, along with countless others in saluting and honoring Deacon Kenneth Florence for service to God and Humankind. We extend our deepest condolences to his Family, Friends, loved ones and all who mourn his loss. We pray that they all will be consoled

• 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.

and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the critical importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) across America—a subject deeply personal to me, as a Black woman.

Generations of separate and unequal education, housing, employment, and compensation have left Black Americans at a persistent disadvantage. DEI holds our Nation accountable for this unjust and unequal treatment that began with slavery and segregation and continues with policies and practices that persist in discriminating against Black people denying them equal opportunity and treatment.

The statistics are stark: non-white school districts receive \$2,226 less per student on average, contributing to an achievement gap that reduces Black students' college attendance and lifetime earnings by 65 percent. Even with advanced degrees, African American women earn significantly less than their white male counterparts and still less than white males with less education. African American women holding advanced degrees, such as a master's, earn \$7 less per hour than Caucasian men with a bachelor's degree, and \$17 less per hour than their Caucasian male peers.

Furthermore, systemic biases persist in financial systems, where Black families earning substantially more than white families are still less likely to qualify for loans. A Black family earning \$157,000 per year is less likely to qualify for a loan than a white family earning \$40,000. DEI efforts must continue to level the playing field and establish a meritocracy reflecting our national values.

While correcting for the injustice of the past and present, DEI is a tool of intention, shaping our national protector. It compels us to strategically engage all our country's talent to compete in the global marketplace of today and tomorrow.

In today's fiercely competitive global economy, America's innovation, and adaptability hinge on our ability to harness the talents and perspectives of all our citizens. By cultivating diverse talent pipelines and fostering inclusive practices, we not only enhance our competitiveness but also lead in the global arena. Companies embracing DEI outperform their peers, with McKinsey studies showing a significant profitability gap between leading DEI practicing organizations and those lagging. Companies in the fourth quartile of both gender and ethnic diversity were 27 percent more likely to underperform on profitability than all other companies in their peer group.

Despite the proven benefits of DEI, right-wing conservatives seek to dismantle these efforts, perpetuating racial hostility and discrimination. Workplace discrimination lawsuits have surged, and hate crimes continue to rise to record levels year after year, in their wake, underscoring the urgent need for DEI to counter-

act these trends and increase awareness of each other's humanity and perspective.

The DEI journey we have embarked upon is not just about numbers or statistics; it's about the fundamental values that define who we are as a Nation and our ability to thrive economically.

Let us recommit to DEI policies not only for the Black community but for all marginalized groups. Our diversity is our greatest asset, and by embracing it, we can forge a brighter, more prosperous America for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on March 11, 12, 13, and 19. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on the following Roll Call votes:

Roll Call No. 79, March 11, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 1752, E-BRIDGE Act; Roll Call No. 80, March 11, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 886, Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act; Roll Call No. 83, March 12, 2024: On Motion to Recommit, H.R. 6276—USE IT Act; Roll Call No. 87, March 19, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 4723, Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement through Sanctions Act; and Roll Call No. 88, March 19, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 149, Condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

I would have voted No on the following Roll Call votes:

Roll Call No. 81, March 12, 2024: On Ordering the Previous Question—H. Res. 1071, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6276) USE IT Act, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies; Roll Call No. 82, March 12, 2024: On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 1071, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6276) USE IT Act, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies; Roll Call No. 84, March 12, 2024: On Passage—H.R. 6276, USE IT Act; Roll Call No. 85, March 12, 2024: On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 1065, Denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies; and Roll Call No. 86, March 13, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended H.R. 7521—Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MARC MOTLEY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Carroll County High School Girls Head Basketball Coach Marc Motley. Coach

Motley is stepping down from his head coaching position after two decades.

Coach Motley graduated with a BS from Radford University in 1996. He is a Physical Education and Driver Education instructor at Carroll County High School.

Coach Motley amassed a win total of 433 victories in his twenty-two seasons with the Carroll County Cavaliers, winning more than 76 percent of his contests during that time-frame.

In addition to coaching in thirteen state tournaments, Coach Motley led the Cavs to back-to-back Class 3 state championships in 2022 and 2023. During those championship-winning seasons, Coach Motley recorded a 52–3 record. For these accomplishments, he was recognized both seasons as the Class 3 Girls Basketball State Coach of the Year.

He has developed countless players, putting some in positions to take their athletic talents to collegiate institutions.

Coach Motley has fostered relationships with many of his fellow teachers, students and parents. Former players routinely return to Carroll County to celebrate Coach Motley's milestones and accomplishments.

While Coach Motley's accolades are significant, it is important to recognize his sacrifices. The number of hours required of a head coach of any high school program is great. The job pulls one away from other important engagements and restricts time away from loved ones and friends.

Congratulations to Coach Motley on a job well done. Under his leadership, Carroll County has been put on the map for high school basketball. I know that his colleagues and students greatly appreciate his dedication to the educational and athletic progress of his players. Coach Motley's impact on Cavalier basketball is to be commended.

CONGRATULATING THE MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL'S AMAZING BIG BLUE WARRIORS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate and commend the athletes, managers, staff members and outstanding fans of the Manasquan High School Big Blue Warriors' Basketball Program.

The 2023–2024 season had moments of great excitement and profound heartbreak, but there is no doubt that both the boys and girls teams demonstrated true grit and sportsmanship to the delight of sports fans across the Garden State—and perhaps the entire country.

First, let me congratulate the members of Manasquan's girls Group 2 state-wide championship team. In a rout, on March 9th the Warriors defeated Madison with a nearly 2–1 victory of 47–26.

Coach Lisa Kukoda led her fiery squad to the championship title with the Warrior team after wrapping up a tremendous 26–5 wins over losses on the season.

Likewise, the boys team, under the leadership of Coach Andrew Bilodeau, had a tremendous win-loss record on the season—finishing with 23 wins to 7 losses.

The players on both teams displayed talent, dedication, tenacity, skill and the hearts of champions.

But this year the boys team was challenged to go to the highest levels of sportsmanship, humility and grace—and they met the challenge.

Despite clear and compelling video evidence proving the timeliness of a Warrior's game-winning shot—at the buzzer in the semifinals—the refs reversed their call and gave the game away. Ultimately, they denied the Warriors their rightful advancement to the state finals—an unbelievable turn of events.

At some point in his or her career, every athlete must wrestle with the agony of defeat. Few, however, are called upon to deal with a blown call that crowns a wrongful winner in the semi-finals.

Today, no one believes that Manasquan lost that game. Yet when the powers that be refused to right the wrong, the Manasquan Warriors remained unfairly “boxed out” of their rightful victory.

Especially worthy of note is this team's actions at the subsequent championship competition later that week

Despite the great disappointment and emotion from players, family, fans and the community that the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) would not overturn what it acknowledged as an officiating error, Coach Bilodeau and his persevering Warriors attended the state finals game, showing the highest character and class. They congratulated Camden High—the inadvertent benefactors of the officiating miscue—and gave them a standing ovation upon their victory in the championship game.

Such civility and strength of character is deeply admired, and it will serve these Warriors well in any and every future endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I speak for all of my constituents in Manasquan when I say that we could not be prouder of the way both the girls and boys teams acted on and off the courts. To have both teams in the playoffs in the same year, in the same sport, in the same final days offered spectacular and legendary memories for fans and players alike.

The Manasquan boys team's handling of the costly and admitted referees' error was remarkable and admirable. Still, reforms are needed at the NJSIAA who issued an apology but offered no justice.

I strongly support the efforts at the state level, including by my good friend and Manasquan's Assemblyman Sean Kean, to help maintain the integrity of high school sports.

Assemblyman Kean's legislation aims to prevent a similar situation from occurring again by prompting the use of instant replay in NJ playoff tournament basketball games. The National Federation of High School Sports guidelines allow state high school associations to use video replay during basketball championships. States other than NJ have done so since 2015.

Mr. Speaker, both the Manasquan High School girls and boys teams give us reason to celebrate their achievements. Well done to all of the players, coaches and managers who make us proud.

The 2023–2024 Manasquan High School Girls Basketball Varsity Program Members:

Players Katie Collins, McKenna Karlson, Carlie Lapinski, Hope Masonius, Shea Don-

nely, Shannon Heine, Grace Love, Olivia Shaughnessy, Ava Frith, Jordyn Hollowell, Lily Johnson, Shannon Looney, Logan McCarthy, Rose Latesta, Managers Kristina Walthall, Juliann Martell, Kylie Rothery, Kathy Minchala-Ramirez, Paige Donnelly, Caroline Watson, Findleigh Tuite, Head Coach Lisa Kukoda; Assistant Coaches Keara Homan, Rich Kirk, Sarah Kurtz, Joe Roman, Bill Shaughnessy.

The 2023–2024 Manasquan High School Boys Basketball Varsity Program Members.

Players Ryan Frauenheim, Alex Konov, Jason Larned, Ryan Mulvaney, Luke Roy, Mike Nitta, Julian Walthall, Dan McManus, Griffin Linstra, Matteo Chiarella, Brandon Kunz, Keegan Hertel, Jack O'Reilly, Jack Lattimer, Logan Cleveland, Rey Weinseimer, Managers Rylie Eldridge, Sophia Bilodeau, Reagan Prime, Lily McKiever, Charlotte Michko, Head Coach Andrew Bilodeau, Assistant Coaches Ryan Ritchey, Colin Eldridge, Sean Fitzgerald, Ed Breheny, Jack Heenan, Bob Wright.

Under the direction of Manasquan Superintendent of Schools Dr Frank Kasyan, High School Principal Robert Goodall, Athletic Director Donald Bramley, and Athletic Trainer Kevin Hyland.

HONORING ROBERT NEMER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Robert Nemer, who has been selected by the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce to receive the 35th Annual J. Walter Juckett Community Service Award.

Robert embodies the philanthropic spirit of the award's namesake. Since moving to the North Country in 1970 to assist his father with the operations of his car dealership, he and his brother have transformed the enterprise into a successful business with several locations across Upstate New York. Robert's community is something he cherishes deeply, and throughout his life, he has gone above and beyond to give back.

As a former teacher, the needs of young students are a matter of special concern for Robert. Alongside the Tri-County United Way and the Post Star, he founded the Kids with Packs program to ensure that students have the supplies they need to start each school year strong. In keeping with this devotion to education, Robert and his wife Francine have also helped to facilitate various youth enrichment programs run by the Hyde Collection.

Equally remarkable is the commitment Robert has shown to the North Country hospitals and doctors. Through the Nemer Auto Group, he has granted considerable financial support to the Glenn Falls, Saint Peter's, and Saratoga hospitals while simultaneously serving on the board of the Hudson Headwaters Health Network. In his spare time, Robert may be found either volunteering with these very same institutions or working for another cause close to his heart: the preservation of his beloved Lake George. The Lake George Association simply would not look the same without Robert's efforts.

Over the years, Robert Nemer has proven himself to be a consistent force for good in his

adopted home state. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I thank Robert for his contributions to the life of our district and congratulate him on this richly deserved award.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ADA M. JACKSON LEE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devoted wife, loving mother, doting grandmother, community servant, and Civil Rights icon, Mrs. Ada M. Jackson Lee. Family, friends, and community leaders will celebrate the Fourth Anniversary of her passing and 100th birthday on April 6, 2024, at Ada Lee Park in Warner Robins, Georgia.

The journey of the remarkable life of Ada Lee began on March 6, 1924, when she was born to the union of the late Mr. Lewis D. Jackson and the late Mrs. Annie B Jackson in Wellston, Georgia.

A lifelong and persistent learner, Mrs. Lee graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and the Culinary Arts Program at The Fort Valley State University. She went on to work as an Urban Renewal specialist where she later retired.

She was married to the late Sylvester Lee and to this union three children were born. Daron Lewis Lee, Virey Anne Ferguson and Dorothea Rita Scott. Mrs. Lee was a woman after God's own heart who served her community with distinction and pride. “It has been said that service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth.” Mrs. Lee paid her rent, and she paid it well. She was nothing short of a trailblazer with several historic firsts for the Warner Robins community—first Director of the Warner Robins Day Care Center, she formed the first Girl Scout Troop for African-American girls and the first Director of the Head Start Program in Warner Robins.

When Mrs. Lee saw a need in the community, she made sure that it was addressed. When she saw a need for a safe space for children to play, she approached the mayor and made it happen. Now that same park is named in her honor. She was a strong advocate for her community and for women. She truly believed in the words of Shirley Chisholm, “if they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.” Because of her lifetime service she was recognized with many awards to include The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis for Outstanding Volunteer Services, The NAACP Trailblazer Award, Ms. Senior Warner Robins as well as one of the fifty Influential Women in Middle Georgia.

She gave her time, talent, and treasure to many organizations to include Board Member of the Family Support Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Warner Robins Housing Authority, Houston County Democratic Advisory, Warner Robins Day Care Center, NAACP, SCLC and served as a member of the Christian Women United Association and the Georgia Council on Human Relations. She was also an honorary member of the Order of Eastern Star, Cinderella Chapter No. 406.

But more important than all of these accolades and memberships, Mrs. Lee was a

woman of faith. A dedicated member of the Warner Robins Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Mrs. Lee was a member of stewardship board, missionary board, Lay Council, We Care-Golden Age, Social Concerns Hospitality Circle and served as Founder of the Pastor's Aide Board. The scripture tells us in Proverbs 3:6 that "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." The Lord truly directed the paths of Mrs. Ada Johnson Lee. The Middle Georgia Community, The State of Georgia, our country, and the world are better because Mrs. Lee passed this way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife Vivian, and the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Ada Johnson Lee. May her life continue to be an inspiration to her family, friends, and all those that she touched during her remarkable life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2024, I was ill and unable to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 89 and No. 90; Yea on Roll Call No. 91 and No. 92; Nay on Roll Call No. 93; Yea on Roll Call No. 94; and Nay on Roll Call No. 95. As a strong proponent of clean energy and the environment, I oppose H.R. 6009, the Restoring American Energy Dominance Act, and H.R. 1121, the Protecting American Energy Production Act.

NORTHWEST OHIO WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH RECOGNITION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate Women's History Month by shining a spotlight on four remarkable women hailing from Ohio's 9th District in our Northwest Ohio region who have etched their names in the annals of history.

Growing up in a world where gender roles were rigidly defined, these women demonstrated a commitment to uplifting women and improving their communities within Northwestern Ohio and beyond.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Mari Evans was a prominent African American poet, writer, and dramatist known for her association with the Black Arts Movement.

While she initially pursued fashion design at the University of Toledo, she ultimately decided to embark on a career in music, and then in writing.

Throughout the 1960's and 1970's, Evans gained recognition for her poetry, which often explored themes of race, identity, and social justice.

One of her most notable works is entitled "I Am a Black Woman." This seminal piece encapsulates the essence of her poetic voice.

Evans' writing style was marked by its lyrical simplicity, direct themes, and its ability to capture the African American experience.

Outside of her literary endeavors, Evans was actively engaged in community service, advocating for prison reform and volunteering with organizations focused on social issues.

Her legacy endures through her powerful poetry, her commitment to social activism, and her impact on generations of readers and writers exploring the complexities of identity and experience.

Feminist icon Gloria Steinem was also born in Toledo, Ohio.

She sought to challenge the societal norms that constrained women's opportunities and perpetuated systemic injustice.

After graduating from Smith College, she honed her craft as a writer and developed a keen awareness of the pervasive gender bias within the media industry.

Determined to challenge these stereotypes, Steinem began to infuse her writing with feminist perspectives, shedding light on issues such as workplace discrimination, reproductive rights, and the intersectionality of oppression.

In 1971, Steinem co-founded Ms. Magazine, a groundbreaking publication that quickly became a platform for feminist thought and activism.

Through the magazine, Steinem and her colleagues tackled taboo subjects with courage and candor, sparking national conversations about women's rights and challenging the status quo.

Ms. Magazine provided a voice for marginalized women and served as a rallying point for the burgeoning feminist movement, inspiring many to join the fight for equality.

Steinem's activism extended far beyond the pages of the magazine, as she emerged a tireless advocate for women's rights on the national stage.

Her willingness to confront uncomfortable truths and challenge entrenched power structures cemented her status as a fearless leader and trailblazer.

Sheree Hovsepian, a luminary in the realm of contemporary art, bridges her Iranian heritage with her American upbringing to craft compelling reflections on identity and the human form.

Raised in northwestern Ohio after her family's immigration to the United States in 1976, Hovsepian skillfully intertwines the organic with the geometric, inviting viewers to embark on a profound journey of introspection and exploration.

Her adept fusion of materials—from fabric and paper to wood and string—imbues her creations with a palpable depth, earning her acclaim and placement in prestigious public museum collections such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Recently celebrated at the 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Hovsepian's work continues to captivate audiences, serving as a reminder of the transformative power of art in evoking dialogue and understanding.

Beyond her creative endeavors, Hovsepian remains steadfast in her commitment to fostering the arts community, actively participating in various committees of cultural institutions and championing arts education and development initiatives.

Mildred Benson considered herself a newspaper reporter first and an author second.

An American journalist and writer known for her contributions to children's literature, she

touched readers of The Toledo Blade and Toledo Times for seven decades.

As a pillar of the community, she penned a weekly column for the Blade until mere weeks before her death.

She wrote under a pseudonym for the Stratemeyer Syndicate, creating the adventurous personality of Nancy Drew in many of her early mysteries.

Inspiring millions of young American women, Ms. Benson's work on the famous series helped shape the character's iconic traits and adventurous spirit.

She leaves behind a significant legacy, both for the children whose love of reading she inspired and for readers of the Toledo Blade in her community.

During Women's History Month and all year round, it is important to recognize the strong and talented women who broke down barriers and shattered glass ceilings, alongside those who continue to do so today.

Today, I proudly honor Mari Evans, Gloria Steinem, Sheree Hovsepian, and Mildred Benson.

They are Pioneers whose remarkable contributions have not only enriched the tapestry of Northwest Ohio and the 9th District, but have also left an indelible imprint on the collective history of our Nation.

HONORING TONY "DOC" FUENTES

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Tony "Doc" Fuentes, a San Antonio native who has dedicated his life to placing the needs of others before his own. His giving spirit represents the best of our city of San Antonio.

When Mr. Fuentes graduated from South San High School in 1970, he knew that his family would be unable to bear the burden of college tuition. Seeking another way to honor his family and to serve others, Mr. Fuentes enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was deployed to Southeast Asia the following year, where he was assigned to the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh, Vietnam. While there, Mr. Fuentes volunteered for a front-line medevac unit to help transport soldiers who were wounded on the front lines.

After his time in the service, Mr. Fuentes returned to San Antonio and was taken under the wing of Lt. Col. Hector Villarreal, who became his mentor and provided Mr. Fuentes with the support needed to fully "return home." Shortly before Lt. Col. Villarreal passed away in 2020, he designated Mr. Fuentes as his successor to lead the San Antonio Coalition for Veterans and Families, an organization dedicated to helping San Antonio's veterans through difficult times. He stepped into the role in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a surge of veterans seeking assistance. Since then, the San Antonio Coalition for Veterans and Families has expanded its scope and operations every year to help even more veterans and their families with basic needs and emergency support.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the honorable achievements of Mr. Tony "Doc" Fuentes. His efforts have led to increased support systems for San Antonio's

veterans and their families, and he is a testament to the idea that a medic's commitment to his soldiers is one that never ends. May God bless Mr. Fuentes, his wife Cynthia, their children, grandchildren, and great grandchild today and for all their years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF JOHN DOLDO, JR.

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of John Doldo, Jr., a pillar of the Watertown community.

John was born at the height of the Great Depression to a large, first-generation Italian American family. Growing up with six siblings, John was instilled with the values of hard work, eventually rising to become a football star quarterback for Watertown High School as a proud member of the "Gang of Eight." After graduating, John would go on to join the United States Army in 1951. For five years, he remained in his post until being honorably discharged in 1956. In the interval, John met and married the love of his life Patricia on a blind date whom he described as "the most beautiful woman he had ever seen." They would have celebrated their 70th anniversary this year.

After leaving the army, John found his calling in real estate—a field in which he was immensely talented. Working in this capacity, John facilitated numerous land deals and renewal projects in the North Country with great skill and dedication leading to a very successful career. Outside of work, John was a strong voice in Watertown's community. He served on the boards of numerous charitable and cultural organizations and was a member and judicial delegate for multiple Republican committees. For his firm commitment to those around him, he was granted the North Country Citation Award from Saint Lawrence University.

What John was best known for, however, was being a family man. You could often find John hosting feasts for his family and singing with one of his many grandchildren. John hosted an annual Feast of the Seven Fishes which will be fondly remembered by those close to him along with his voice leading the children in singing "Oh Come All Ye Faithful."

John Doldo lived a full life that demonstrated his utmost dedication to his country, his community, and his family. His hard work allowed him to live a life full of charity and joy. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am deeply honored to share my gratitude with John's family and reflect on his lifetime of public service as we celebrate his life of service.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR JEAN
BREAUX

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Indiana Senator Jean Breaux, who

lived a life of selfless and profound service to the Indianapolis community.

For decades, Senator Breaux served our community with her signature fierce advocacy and fighting spirit. Prior to holding office, Senator Breaux worked for the Indiana Department of Economic Development, where she fought for Hoosiers of all backgrounds. In 2006, she was elected to the Indiana Senate—following in the footsteps of her mother, Billie Breaux—and served as assistant Democratic leader for the Senate Democratic Caucus from 2012 to 2020.

In her role, Senator Breaux fought tirelessly for vulnerable and disadvantaged Hoosiers. In particular, she worked to improve Black infant and maternal mortality, increased access to healthy food in food deserts, protected Hoosiers from rising utility costs, fought for reproductive justice, passed policies to address poverty, advocated for gun violence prevention to keep our communities safe, and so much more. In her role on the Senate Health Committee, she helped combat health disparities in the Black community and pushed for comprehensive access to care. Equity was always at the center of her service. Senator Breaux's initiative to eliminate school textbook fees passed last year, which will help Hoosier families for generations to come.

Senator Breaux's impact on our community is reflected in the outpouring of grief and support as the entire Indiana community mourns this substantial loss. She was a great friend, mentor, and confidante to so many, including myself. On many occasions, I relied on her wisdom to guide me, and the lessons she taught us all will continue to endure. On behalf of the entire 7th Congressional District, we offer our condolences to those grieving this significant loss, especially her beloved mother, former Senator Billie Breaux.

Today, we honor the life and legacy of Senator Jean Breaux, but we will continue to honor her every day moving forward by heeding her advice: fight for those less fortunate, no matter the obstacles in the way, speak up against injustice, and never stop working towards a brighter future.

HONORING NATALIE MUÑOZ-SIEVERT AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Natalie Muñoz-Sievert, MD, FACOG, joined Orlando Health Physician Associates in 2013.

Board certified in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Muñoz-Sievert provides comprehensive healthcare for women throughout all stages of life.

After earning her medical degree from the Florida State University School of Medicine, Dr. Muñoz-Sievert completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency at Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies.

Dr. Muñoz-Sievert is a fellow of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and is a member of the American Medical Women's Association.

Additionally, she is fluent in Spanish.

HONORING ROBIN S. REED

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Robin S. Reed. Robin was a giant in the Arizona business community: a trusted mentor, a visionary leader and a staunch advocate for minority entrepreneurs and community development.

From a young age, Robin's mother instilled in him and his four siblings the belief that life's obstacles were simply opportunities in disguise. At age 11, Robin lent his voice to Franklin Armstrong in A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, portraying the first Black character in the Peanuts. He embraced the opportunity with pride, recognizing the significance of breaking barriers and advocating for inclusivity. Robin discovered the rewards of hard work early—he managed golf courses in Northern California before he graduated high school and became a licensed stockbroker by the age of 19. He began his professional career in the financial sector—serving as a financial advisor at Charles Schwaab, stockbroker and detail shop owner. His experiences as a young man cultivated a life-long desire to help business owners thrive.

An entrepreneur at heart, Robin started, acquired, operated, and sold several companies over his 40-year career. But Robin is perhaps best known for his tireless work as President of the Black Chamber of Arizona, a position he held for nearly a decade. Under his leadership, Robin tirelessly advocated for equitable access to the tools and education necessary for entrepreneurial empowerment, striving to eliminate barriers hindering economic growth. Robin demonstrated an exceptional ability to navigate the complexities of the business world while remaining steadfast in his commitment to uplifting others. Because of his work, entrepreneurs across the state have been equipped with the confidence and resources to achieve their highest aspirations.

Robin's generosity extended beyond his work with the Chamber. He was a passionate supporter of Treasure House, an organization aimed at empowering young adults with disabilities, ensuring they found support and opportunities for independence within the community as they transitioned to adulthood. He used his platform on the Social Television Network's Community Collaborative to highlight the actions of local businesses and leaders that promoted diversity, equity and inclusion. His recent collaboration with Impact AZ—a statewide initiative aimed at bridging the racial wealth gap for Black and minority-owned businesses—underscores his lifelong mission to foster intergenerational prosperity and opportunity for all Arizonans.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Robin, who we lost at the age of 62 on February 28. He is survived by his wife, Shawna, and beloved children. Godspeed, Robin.

HONORING VINCENT BONO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a native son of Herkimer County, Vincent Bono, and to wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his storied career. Mr. Bono was born in Iliou, and he never strayed too far from home. In 1985, he settled in Schuylerville, which has been his home ever since. In 2002, Mr. Bono was elected to represent Herkimer's 11th district in the county legislature, where he quickly became a fixture. He immediately earned the nickname "Mr. IDA" for his support for the county's Industrial Development Agency, which he now chairs. Vincent has been a fighter for the economic betterment of his beloved county since day one. Under his leadership, business parks in Schuylerville and Frankfort were built, bringing new jobs and residents with them. Vincent has also been a champion for students and young people. One would be hard-pressed to find a more vocal advocate for Herkimer Community College than Mr. Bono. He takes pride in the fact that he began the Children's Center initiative which will be carried on by his trusted colleagues and go on to have a positive impact on the community.

Vincent's service has not been limited to elected leadership. He has also served his community as a volunteer firefighter, risking his life to protect others. He has also contributed greatly to the work of numerous organizations tackling issues close to his heart. Whenever there has been a need for a reliable voice in Herkimer, Vincent has readily provided that voice.

Vincent Bono has proven himself to be a true statesman. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I thank him for all he has contributed to life in the North Country and wish him luck as he begins a new chapter of his public service.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND EMMETT SCOTT ANITON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to offer my heartfelt congratulations and well wishes to an exceptional mentor, devoted leader, Vietnam War Veteran, faithful servant of God, and cherished longtime friend, Reverend Dr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr., as he concludes his 45 years of service at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. A special celebration marking his 45th Anniversary and retirement from preaching the Gospel will take place on April 7, 2024 at the church in Columbus, Georgia.

Born on March 8, 1940, in Oneonta, Alabama to Mr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Sr. and Mrs. Estella Aniton Woods, Rev. Aniton graduated from Southside High School in Etowah County, Alabama before earning his Bachelor of Theology from Selma University in 1964. Following his service in Vietnam, he furthered his education at Alabama A&M University, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

Having answered the call to preach, Rev. Aniton began his ministry at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Alabama, where he served his congregation faithfully. In November 1978, he accepted the call to pastor at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, where he has led with passion and dedication since April 1979. Under his guidance, the church has flourished spiritually, numerically, and in its physical facilities.

Rev. Aniton's impact extends beyond the church walls, with his involvement in various community organizations and leadership roles. He has been recognized with awards such as the NAACP Religious Affairs Award and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award, among others. His commitment to service and leadership exemplifies the quote by George Washington Carver when he said "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these. Rev. Aniton has used his ministry to reach people from all walks of life. Spurred by the example of Jesus, he has used his life's work to help the "Least of These."

In reflecting on his achievements, Rev. Aniton acknowledges the unwavering support of his late wife, Mrs. Dorothy Rigby Aniton, his children, grandchildren, and extended family. Personally, I have been blessed to benefit from Rev. Aniton's wisdom and friendship for over four decades. He never told me what I wanted to hear; he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. Rev. Aniton has inspired and mentored many with his sterling example of what a man of God should look like. He is truly a man after God's own heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in The U.S. House of Representatives to join me, my wife Vivian, and the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in expressing our deepest gratitude and best wishes to Reverend Dr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr. as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement after 45 years of devoted service at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. May God continue to bless him and his loved ones as he enters this new chapter in his life.

HONORING MATTHEW HYMEL

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Matthew Hymel upon his retirement from the County of Marin after more than two decades of extraordinary public service.

Raised in Western Pennsylvania during the economic hardships of the late 1970s and early 1980s, Matthew has long been interested in how the government can shape public policy to support struggling communities. In high school, his family moved to California, where Matthew obtained a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz. After graduating in 1988, he attended John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, earning his master's degree in public policy.

Matthew returned to California and took a position at the Legislative Analyst's Office in

Sacramento. After six months, government-wide layoffs prompted Matthew to relocate to the Bay Area, where he worked as a budget analyst for the city manager of Oakland and then for the controller's office in San Francisco. In 1997, newly elected Mayor Willie Brown was impressed by Matthew's budget development work and hired him as his budget director. Matthew worked his way up through the City and County of San Francisco to the role of Chief Assistant Controller, before joining Marin County in 2002 as Chief Assistant to County Administrator Mark Riesenfeld. In 2005, the Board of Supervisors chose Matthew as his successor and at the young age of 38, Matthew assumed the role of Marin County Administrator, a role he has held for almost two decades.

As Marin County Administrator, Matthew successfully managed a multimillion-dollar annual budget, supervised administrative work for the county's 2,000 employees, and provided the board of supervisors with timely research and recommendations. He led with intelligence and stability during the economic challenges of the 2008 through 2010 recession, pension obligations, and the COVID-19 pandemic. He worked closely with other agencies, nonprofits, healthcare providers, and the Marin County Office of Education to establish a cohesive approach to minimizing the pandemic's impact on the community.

Upon his retirement, Matthew leaves the county with a strong fiscal position and administrative plan focused on integrating cross-departmental initiatives that address racial equity, capital improvements, behavioral health, affordable housing, and homelessness. Beyond his outstanding budget management, Matthew is known by his colleagues and the Marin County Board of Supervisors for his collaborative work style and humble demeanor. He is an exemplary public servant.

Mr. Speaker, as Matthew Hymel retires after 22 years of service to Marin County, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude to Matthew for his innumerable achievements in improving the quality of life for the staff and residents of Marin County and in sending him best wishes on his next endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2024, I missed votes due to an illness. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 99; YES on Roll Call No. 100; and NAY on Roll Call No. 101.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. CYNTHIA BAMBARA

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the remarkable tenure of Allegany College of Maryland President, Dr. Cynthia

Bambara and celebrate her well-earned retirement. For over four decades, Dr. Bambara has dedicated her career to the advancement of higher education, enriching the lives of students and bolstering local communities through her unwavering dedication.

Her leadership as the first woman to serve as President of Allegany College of Maryland has proved transformative. Under her stewardship for the past thirteen years, the Allegany College of Maryland has flourished, expanding its academic programs, strengthening community partnerships, and enhancing student support services. Through collaboration with faculty, staff, and administrators, she led the college to achieve numerous milestones, making ACM a place of opportunity for all. The legacy she leaves behind is a testament to her leadership and the collective achievements of the college community.

It is a privilege to acknowledge Dr. Cynthia Bambara's service and dedication as she embarks on her next chapter. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire future leaders and continue to benefit ACM students and the state of Maryland for years to come.

HONORING MR. JAMES MILLER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. James Miller and to thank him for his long and exemplary career serving our constituents and servicemen.

Jim's service to our troops began four decades ago while he was pursuing his second Master's Degree at Florida State University, after earning his first from Slippery Rock University. While pursuing his educational goals, he interned with the Mental Hygiene Clinic at the Erie County, Pennsylvania Veteran Affairs Hospital. This would prove to be a formative experience for Jim who, upon graduation in 1989, took a job at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During his time at Fort Campbell, Jim served in a variety of roles including the Chief of Community Mental Health and the Chief of Discharge Planning. In these roles, Jim assumed responsibility for the well-being of countless troops and their family members. He flourished in Kentucky, but when Americans were called to serve during Operation Desert Storm, Jim followed the 101st Airborne—the mighty Screaming Eagles—across the waves as the division's social work officer. While deployed, he went above and beyond, providing counseling services to the troops and even establishing a mental health clinic similar to the one in which he had once worked in.

Jim stayed with the 101st until 1993, afterward continuing his service at various installations across the nation. Though his capacity differed at each station, the quality of service he delivered never diminished. His nine-year journey concluded in 2002 when he settled in with the North Country's own 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. During the height of the global War on Terror, Jim provided the Division with the same essential, high-quality care that had defined his time with the 101st years prior. After serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, he returned to his roots at the very same Erie

VA Hospital where his career had started. Eventually, Jim would return to the North Country, first as the chief of the Watertown Veterans Center and then as a clinical social worker with Fort Drum's Soldier Recovery Program.

After a long career tending to our warfighters in their hours of need, Jim is ready for one last transition: on March 14th, he celebrated a richly deserved retirement after a lifetime of service. On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my distinct honor to thank him for all he has done in service of the North Country, the 10th Mountain Division, and our Country.

RECOGNIZING MY PRESS SECRETARY, TAYLOR DEACON, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Press Secretary, Taylor Deacon, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. This week, Taylor will depart my office for a new opportunity serving as Deputy Communications Director and Press Secretary in the Office of Rep. Don Davis, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

A Michigan native, Taylor's Midwest work ethic shines through in everything she does. From earning a Girl Scout Gold Award to graduating Magna Cum Laude from Elon University, her grit was as evident early in life as it is now on Capitol Hill.

As my Press Secretary, Taylor served as a trusted advisor and liaison to the media, using her sharp communications skills to articulate the accomplishments of our office and forge productive relationships with members of the press. Taylor brought a combination of passion, zeal, and enthusiasm to whatever task she was assigned. Her communications instincts, honed by work experience in the private and public sectors, are top notch, and I couldn't ask for a better companion to dash to an interview during a busy week.

Taylor Deacon has a rare combination of wit and patience that helps her maneuver whatever press landscape came her way. An invaluable member of my team, Taylor brought humor to a job that can often feel heavy and remained unflappable in tough situations. Her colleagues on the legislative team will always remember her skill at turning dry bill text into punchy press releases and consistently being game for a little wordplay on even the most arcane topics. Taylor has explained the difference between official and political work enough in the past year to last a lifetime and still has a bright smile for everyone she encounters. Her charm and grace—as well as her sarcasm—will be deeply missed by her colleagues.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her expertise and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that this expertise will continue to serve the Nation and the people of North Carolina's First Congress-

sional District. I wish Taylor all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for three years of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.

CELEBRATING WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a champion of our nation's abundant energy resources.

Western Energy Alliance is celebrating 50 years of unifying stakeholders and policymakers in support of oil and natural gas in the West. Their work has helped balance the environment by providing citizens with the energy they need.

Today, just as in 1974, energy policy is vital to America's success. Today, as back then, we also see regulators going out of their way to hamstring innovative solutions from small, independent companies focused on harnessing our Nation's mineral resources—companies that constitute the Alliance's membership.

Fortunately, the Alliance has been a guiding voice and valuable resource for members of Congress and has helped consumers combat high prices at the pump and lower their utility bills.

Congratulations to Western Energy Alliance for reaching the 50-year milestone and I thank them for being a credible advocate of western oil and natural gas.

CELEBRATING EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Eastern Michigan University in recognition of its 175th anniversary. An R2 Doctoral University for High Research Activity, Eastern Michigan University has spent the last 175 years educating the future leaders of this nation and its contributions to society are worthy of commendation.

Established as Michigan State Normal School in 1849 as the first normal school outside of New England, the school opened its doors with 122 enrolled students on March 29th, 1853, and quickly established a reputation of training excellent educators. By 1899 the school had developed the first four-year curriculum for a normal school in the United States and Michigan State Normal School became Michigan State Normal College. The college continued its important mission in educating students through World War II, the Great Depression, and World War II, and later became Eastern Michigan University in 1959 after establishing its graduate school. Following the transition to university status, an international student exchange program was organized with Britain in the early 1970s to allow students to gain broader perspectives and experiences.

With the original seven colleges and schools in the arts and sciences, business, education, health and human services, engineering and technology, honors college, and the graduate school, Eastern Michigan University has produced numerous notable alumni over its storied history. The university's more than 145,000 living alumni encompass several state governors including Michigan's 31st Governor Fred W. Green, State Supreme Court Chief Justices including Marilyn Jean Kelly and Marvin B. Rosenberry, U.S. Senators Royal Copeland and Charles E. Potter, numerous U.S. Representatives, and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater. The University Athletics Department has also produced several notable professional athletes in the National Football League, as well as National Basketball Association Hall of Fame player George Gervin.

Today, Eastern Michigan University's main campus sits in Ypsilanti, Michigan, with over 800 acres available to more than 13,000 students across the undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Since the 1970's, the university has offered courses in Jackson, Michigan, and has since expanded to seven satellite campuses as well as the recently added online course program. Additionally, several programs have been added to the university including the Centers for Corporate Training, the World College, and doctoral programs in educational leadership, technology, and psychology. Outside the classroom, the Eagles have found success in their three NCAA Division 2 national championships and 13 NAIA Division 1 national championships in baseball, men's cross country, men's swimming and diving, and men's indoor and outdoor track and field. The Eagles now compete at the NCAA Division 1 FBS level of collegiate sports and

have twice been NCAA Division 1 national runner up and have made four appearances in the NCAA Division 1 men's basketball tournament.

It is inspiring to see everything that Eastern Michigan University has accomplished over the past 175 years and the university's incredible growth is a testament to the quality education and broad opportunities it continues to provide to students. I am eager to see all that the university accomplishes in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent because of a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 92; YEA on Roll Call No. 93; NAY on Roll Call No. 94; YEA on Roll Call No. 95; YEA on Roll Call No. 96; YEA on Roll Call No. 97; YEA on Roll Call No. 98; NAY on Roll Call No. 99; NAY on Roll Call No. 100; and YEA on Roll Call No. 101.

HONORING HERMELINDA SAPIEN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Hermelinda Sapien.

She has dedicated 55 years to the Center for Employment Training, and the past 25 years she has displayed her unwavering leadership as President and Executive Director.

The Center for Employment Training is an economic and community development corporation. Their job training and placement programs teach marketable skills to people of all educational levels and backgrounds, supporting them through the process of job placement. With 12 locations, including San Jose's, CET's impact is monumental.

Mrs. Sapien's work with CET began as an Administrative Assistant, and her commitment served her well as she moved up to Human Resources Director, Chief Administrative Officer, Deputy Director, and ultimately, President and CEO.

CET's ability to work with our community and support the dignity of self-sufficiency is largely due to Sapien's hard work. She dedicated her career to ensuring CET's financial stability and guaranteeing that the needs of students at CET were being met.

Thousands of people have received the training and support they needed to find meaningful employment that supports them and their families. Hermelinda's work and that of all the CET staff has changed lives and our community for the better. Hermelinda's leadership has made a profound difference.

Hermelinda Sapien will be retiring in June of this year, and it is with great pride and respect that I recognize her accomplishments.

I share with the CET's Board of Directors in their heartfelt farewell to Mrs. Sapien, and we will always remember her impact on the Center for Employment Training's success.