

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING APOSTLE JOHN
ECKHARDT

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize Apostle John Eckhardt, who is being recognized and honored for his significant impact to the Body of Christ at the 2024 State of the Church Summit, in Miami, Florida.

Whereas, John Eckhardt's journey began on the South Side of Chicago on November 19, 1957, where he was born into a legacy of achievement, with his father being a professional baseball player in the Negro League, and his mother a first-generation descendant of Italian immigrants; and

Whereas, Apostle Eckhardt's pursuit of knowledge led him through the Catholic school system, earning a scholarship to Loyola Academy for high school and Northwestern University for college, where he studied Pre-Med, showcasing his dedication to academic excellence; and

Whereas, Apostle Eckhardt, through divine intervention, experienced salvation in 1978 during his junior year in college, leading him on the path to ministry, where he met his wife, Wanda Eckhardt, at a local church, later marrying her in 1979, and together they have raised a family of five children and two grandchildren; and

Whereas, Apostle Eckhardt, with unwavering dedication, assumed the role of Pastor in 1988 and, over the years, has become a beacon of inspiration for countless individuals, imparting his apostolic mandate and prophetic insight; and

Whereas, Apostle Eckhardt is the visionary CEO and founder of Impact University and John Eckhardt Global, institutions that stand as pillars of knowledge and empowerment in the heart of Chicago. He has dedicated his life to serving as an international speaker, missionary, and overseer of Crusaders Church in Chicago, Illinois; and

Whereas, Apostle Eckhardt has demonstrated a commitment to fostering spiritual growth and understanding, reaching across continents with a weekly broadcast on Clubhouse and Facebook, titled "The Decrees for Breakthrough and The Porch". Apostle Eckhardt's influence extends far beyond national borders, having ministered in more than 90 nations and six continents, leaving an indelible mark on the global body of Christ, and

Whereas, Apostle Eckhardt is a prolific author, having penned over fifty books, including renowned titles such as "Prayers That Rout Demons," "Prayers That Break Curses," "Prophet Arise," "God Still Speaks," and his latest release, "You Shall Recover All"; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, rec-

ognize Apostle John Eckhardt for his outstanding contributions to the global community, his unwavering commitment to spiritual enlightenment, and his transformative impact on the lives of countless individuals.

HONORING THE CASS CITY
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 12, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis (Joe) Merchant, a pillar of the Cass City community, for being named Cass City's Citizen of the Year. Joe's lifetime of selfless service, both in uniform and within our community, exemplifies the highest ideals of citizenship and community engagement.

Joe, a Cass City High School graduate of the class of 1968, answered the call of duty by volunteering for the U.S. Army, serving with distinction in the 1st Cavalry Division during his time in Vietnam. Upon his return, Joe continued to serve our community through his family's business until its closure. His commitment to service did not wane with the end of his military career or family business, instead, it deepened as he became an integral part of the Cass City VFW Post 3644.

As Post Commander, Joe's leadership transformed the VFW hall into a vibrant community center, reflecting his vision for a space where veterans and community members alike could come together. His efforts led to significant improvements in the facility, making it a hub of activity and support for veterans and their families.

Joe's dedication to honoring veterans extended beyond the walls of the VFW hall. His determination to give Vietnam Veterans the welcome home they deserved was realized by bringing Sky Soldiers and their UH1H Huey to Cass City for the 4th of July Freedom Festival. This event, which Joe tirelessly worked to organize, provided a poignant moment of recognition and healing for many veterans, as well as an educational and memorable experience for our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is individuals like Dennis (Joe) Merchant who forge the strong backbone of communities across our nation. His lifetime of service, both in the armed forces and within Cass City, sets a sterling example of dedication, resilience, and community spirit. It is with immense honor that we recognize Joe Merchant as Cass City's Citizen of the Year, a title he richly deserves for his indelible contributions to our community and nation.

Today, we celebrate Joe's achievements and service, we are reminded of the profound impact one individual can have on the lives of many. Let us draw inspiration from his example, striving to serve our communities and country with the same zeal and selflessness that Joe Merchant has shown throughout his remarkable life.

HONORING JIM HOST

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exceptional man, Mr. Jim Host, of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Host will receive the 2024 Tom Jernstedt Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2024 Men's Final Four in Phoenix, Arizona. This award is presented to honor individuals who have made a meaningful impact on college basketball.

Mr. Host grew up in Ashland, Kentucky. He earned one of the first two baseball scholarships given by the University of Kentucky in 1955. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in radio arts and played one year of pro baseball as a pitcher for the Chicago White Sox. A shoulder injury ended his baseball career. He was the youngest person to serve in Governor Louie Nunn's cabinet, as Commissioner of Public Information and Commissioner of Parks. He ran for Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky in 1971. Mr. Host served as Governor Ernie Fletcher's Secretary of Commerce from 2003–2005. His service to Kentucky continued as the first Executive Director of Rupp Arena, founding chairman of the Kentucky Horse Park, and chairman of the Louisville Arena Authority.

Mr. Host was founder and CEO of Host Communications. His nationally known sports marketing company brought business knowledge and fresh ideas to college sports marketing. He began working with the NCAA in the mid-1970's and transformed the promotion of college basketball and the post-season tournament. Before his involvement, there was no "Final Four" label and not even an official program for the tournament. With his entrepreneurial and innovative skills, he introduced corporate sponsorships, the national radio network, and many other successful ideas that made college basketball what we enjoy today.

Mr. Host has earned many well-deserved accolades. He is a member of the UK Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the UK Athletics Hall of Fame, the National College Basketball Hall of Fame, and the National Tourism Hall of Fame. He was named Kentucky's Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998. From the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, he received the Chairman's Cup Award, the John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award, and is a lifetime trustee.

For his outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and for his latest award, the 2024 Tom Jernstedt Lifetime Achievement Award, it is my honor to call him my friend and to recognize his accomplishments before the United States House of Representatives.

• 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 SERVICE OF
MASTER SERGEANT STEVEN D.
PARKER

HON. ANDREW OGLES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Master Sergeant Steven D. Parker, who is retiring from the 218th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG) of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Master Sergeant Steven D. Parker began his military career over forty years ago on March 12, 1984. He honorably served the Tennessee Air National Guard as a C-130 Aircraft Mechanic for 28 years and an Administrative Craftsman for 12 years. His deployments include time in Tabuk, Minhad, and at Bagram Air Base to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He later served in Baghdad supporting Operation Inherent Resolve as an Administration Craftsman.

Master Sergeant Parker's exemplary service and dedication to his country has twice earned him the 218 ISRG Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Quarterly Award. He also serves as the Sergeant at Arms at American Legion Post 141 in Tennessee, where he champions patriotism and community engagement, something which he commits to himself by volunteering in his community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Master Sergeant Parker for his service to his country and in wishing him good luck as he retires.

RECOGNIZING FRANK RENDA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a great American success story that has taken place in the 24th Congressional District that I represent in North Texas. As a member of the House Small Business Committee who represents countless job creators with growing businesses, I appreciate the role of our small business owners in creating opportunity and prosperity for North Texans. I rise to recognize one such company, Southland Holdings in Grapevine, Texas, which recently realized the American dream, starting as a family business and recently reaching the milestone of becoming publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Oscar and Rudy Renda, Sr., and their three other brothers, along with their parents, immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1956. Sponsored by their uncle, Ernie Renda, a Pearl Harbor survivor and construction veteran, Ernie tirelessly worked to bring his family to America. The Renda brothers grew up influenced by their Uncle Ernie's strong work ethic and a profound passion for construction. Oscar embarked on his career as a high school coach and history teacher but always harbored a deep passion for construction instilled by Uncle Ernie. In 1974, he realized his dream by founding Oscar Renda Contracting (ORC). A

year later, his brother Rudy joined him, and they began building small-diameter water and wastewater pipelines across the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolis, employing former high school students as their initial crew, many of whom remain with the company today.

Over the next few years, ORC refined its expertise in constructing large-diameter water and wastewater conveyance pipelines and treatment plants. Much of the company's early experience centered around building projects for the City of Dallas. From this local experience, the company gradually expanded its operations with larger and more complex projects across Texas and neighboring states. Through these years, the next generation led by Frank and Rudy Renda gained invaluable experience working alongside skilled crew members from an early age. During their college years at Texas Tech University, Frank and Rudy crossed paths with Tim Winn, which further led to a discovery of shared goals, values, and aspirations that have been the foundation of Southland's success.

Frank, Rudy, and Tim assumed control of the company in 1999, and the following year, entered a joint venture with Southland Contracting, established by Charlie Griffith in 1981. Charlie's unfortunate and premature death led Frank, Tim, Rudy, and Clay, Charlie's son, to assume leadership of the company, and in 2002, Oscar Renda Contracting acquired Southland Contracting. Their shared vision, unwavering commitment, and steadfast principles motivated them to establish Southland Holdings in 2006. Frank Renda assumed the role of CEO, while Rudy Renda and Tim Winn became co COO's. This strategic move laid the groundwork for the company's remarkable growth in the following decade. In the coming years, Southland Holdings welcomed Mole Constructors, Johnson Brothers Corporation, and American Bridge Company into the Southland Holdings family. This family of companies has accomplished remarkable feats in various sectors, including connecting the United States through transportation projects, establishing water pipelines and treatment facilities to transport water across vast regions, tunneling through challenging geological conditions, and contributing to the construction of some of the nation's most iconic structural landmarks.

Once again, Frank, Rudy, and Tim achieved an ambitious goal, with Southland becoming publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol SLND. On March 2, 2023, the three of them had the honor of ringing the bell at the NYSE, just a few miles away from where Frank and Rudy's ancestors immigrated into the country at Ellis Island. Frank remarked, "Amidst the ringing of the bell and the applause, I couldn't help but feel a profound sense of gratitude, not only for myself and my partners, but also for our dedicated employees and our family that paved the way to this momentous occasion."

Today, Southland boasts nearly 3,000 employees across North America and the Bahamas. They have performed work in seven countries and thirty-eight states, generating approximately \$1.2 billion in annual revenue. Frank expressed gratitude for the journey, emphasizing that it was only possible through hard work, dedication, sacrifice, and trust. The Southland family is building a construction legacy, carrying forward the values of the generations that came before them, and that is just the beginning of the Southland story.

HONORING NAM PHAM

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated work and leadership of Mr. Nam Pham in service of improving the lives of immigrant families in our community in Santa Clara County. Mr. Pham passed away in March 2024.

Mr. Nam Pham was born in 1955 in Saigon, Vietnam. In 1983, he arrived in Malaysia as a political refugee after escaping Vietnam by boat. He eventually arrived in Rhode Island in 1984 and settled in California the following year. He has been a resident of Santa Clara County for four decades.

During his 40 years in our community, Mr. Pham produced hundreds of magazines, documentaries, and audio records to preserve Vietnamese history and culture in the United States in service of future.

Since 2001, Mr. Pham served as Director of the Immigrant Resettlement & Cultural Center, Inc. (IRCC) and had extensive experience in our community of working with the Vietnamese immigrant population. He oversaw IRCC operations, including personnel, finance, as well as funded volunteer programs. IRCC was the very first community-based organization in Santa Clara County offering education and social services to the Vietnamese community.

Since 2015, Mr. Pham helped host the "Thank You, America" annual event where Vietnamese Americans express gratitude and appreciation to the United States for rescuing them at sea and providing them a new home. Through IRCC and Dan Sinh Media, which he created, and which broadcasted programs nationwide through The Overseas Vietnam Radio Network, Mr. Pham worked to develop a health information network to help meet the health needs of Vietnamese Americans in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Nam Pham's commitment to bettering the lives of immigrants in our diverse, thriving community. His legacy in our community lives on through his projects. We have been lucky to have him, and he will be missed.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CHIEF
ANTHONY "TONY" SACCONÉ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a long time, career first responder from Eastern Connecticut, Chief Anthony "Tony" Saccone. Chief Saccone has diligently served and protected his hometown, Ledyard Connecticut, specifically Ledyard's village of Gales Ferry. On Saturday April 13, 2024, Tony will be honored at a retirement celebration by his family, department colleagues and friends, recognizing his talented, faithful adherence to duty.

Chief Saccone was born and raised in Greenbush N.Y. where he attended and graduated Watervliet High School. He was brought up in a large, loving family by his father who

worked as a lineman, and his mother who stayed home to care for Tony and his six siblings. After graduation he volunteered to serve his country in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to serve on a destroyer based at Norfolk, VA. After an honorable discharge, he pursued further education and acquired an associate degree in Fire Science and Technology. He married his wife, Noreen, in 1987 and moved to Ledyard where they raised four children. His time in the naval service and his training in fire science, led Tony to pursue a career as a firefighter at the Submarine Base fire department. Unsurprisingly, he took to the task, and he continued to work at the Submarine Base as a firefighter for over 20 years. Mr. Speaker, the mission of the subbase department is very specialized, given the highly complex and value of A large fleet of fast attack submarines homeported there. Tony handled that portfolio with highest degree of professionalism and proficiency it required. Not one to settle for just that task, Saccone took it upon himself to take a second job at the Gales Ferry Fire Company, where he also excelled and has since tirelessly served his community up to this day.

Chief Saccone's involvement in both fire departments extended beyond the details of his job description. He rapidly accelerated through the ranks and became the Fire Captain at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base and Chief of the Gales Ferry Fire Company. His leadership skills are exhibited in his character; as Captain and Chief of these departments, he prioritized mutual trust, respect, and communication between him and the crews. He led by example, expecting the same excellence of his team as of himself. His organizational skill proved to be an asset when Chief Saccone managed a \$250,000 budget for Gales Ferry and balanced it each year since beginning his position as Chief in 2008. It is through the leadership of Saccone that Gales Ferry and the Submarine Base Fire crews can provide high quality service to their communities.

As a natural leader, Chief Saccone recognized his potential to extend his service to his community and town from a political position. He was voted to the Ledyard Town Council, where he fearlessly advocated for the community as a whole and the Gales Ferry Fire Department. I had the honor to get to know Chief Saccone when he and I, from 2011 to 2021, worked together to advance the bipartisan Fire Police Fairness Act. Through his tireless advocacy alongside my office, Chief Saccone witnessed the signing of this bill by President Biden on November 18, 2021 at the White House in Washington, DC. From 2017 to 2018, Chief Saccone and I began that legislative journey to extend police officers' death benefits to fire police officers. This legislation will ensure all firefighters' families get federal survivor benefits after serious injury or fatality. His passion and knowledge of the challenges first responders face were essential to secure successful passage of this law—even in the midst of a highly polarized Congress. This was a resounding bipartisan victory that reflected Americans' endless support for first responders.

It was also a pleasure and honor for Chief Saccone to accompany me at President Biden's State of the Union Address in 2022. He is the true example of a selfless leader, someone who expects nothing more of others than the best, while expecting even more from

himself. He raises others, is a team player, and an individual of incalculable quality. Chief Saccone's involvement in his community and country reflects his commitment to American democratic values For the sake of America, I hope that citizens see Chief Saccone's story and continue his legacy as unswaying champions of American democracy. Chief Saccone's newly found free-time will undoubtedly be dedicated towards his wife Noreen; four children, Anthony Jr., Julia, Lucas, and Emilie; and his children's respective families. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Saccone's career.

HONORING THE CASS CITY JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trysten Gruber, Jr., the Junior Cass City Citizen of the Year, whose exceptional academic record, dedication to community service, and outstanding leadership in athletics are complemented by his remarkable character and commitment to personal development.

Trysten's academic journey is marked by a consistent record of high honors, demonstrating his commitment to excellence. His engagement in community initiatives, such as organizing blood drives and participating in environmental cleanups, showcases his strong sense of civic responsibility and desire to contribute positively to our community.

In athletics, Trysten has proven himself as a natural leader, serving as the football team captain and earning accolades including the Golden Helmet Award and First Team All-State honors. His achievements in wrestling and track further underscore his athletic ability and dedication.

Beyond the realm of sports, Trysten's involvement with the Boy Scouts of America, peer mentoring, and the National Honor Society highlight his well-rounded talents and his unwavering commitment to personal growth and community service. His attainment of the Eagle Scout rank and active participation in the National Honor Society are a testament to his exemplary character and leadership skills.

Today, we celebrate not just Trysten Gruber, Jr.'s past accomplishments but also the potential he embodies for future success and positive impact. His journey serves as a powerful reminder of the values that strengthen and enrich our community and nation, and I am proud that he was selected as the Cass City Junior Citizen of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 105, and YEA on Roll Call No. 106.

HONORING SANDY SEARS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandra "Sandy" Sears, an outstanding leader in the Greater Miami community.

Ms. Sears received a master's degree in management in 1975 from Northwestern University, Magna Cum Laude. In 2007, she attended the Wharton School CEO Program for Health Care Leadership.

Ms. Sears is a retired senior executive in the Jackson Health System. She served for 39 years in senior level leadership, retiring as the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Jackson North Medical Center. Ms. Sears developed the affiliation agreement between Jackson North and the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, which distinguishes Jackson North as an academic community hospital. Ms. Sears is now continuing her commitment to public service in the capacity of Special Advisor, U.S. Congressional House of Representatives.

Ms. Sears serves with various organizations, including the Miami Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and she serves as a member in the Miami-Biscayne Bay chapter of the Links Incorporated. She is also a member of the executive committee of the Vice Provost's Council at Florida International University which is a community relations board on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Ms. Sears is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Black Heritage Planning Pillars Award for her contributions to the upward mobility of the African-American community throughout the years. She has been named one of the "Outstanding Black Leaders in Dade County," recognized for outstanding community services and leadership by a number of agencies such as Dade County Black Affairs, King of Clubs Greater Miami, Miami-Dade County Health Department, recognized as Outstanding Woman of Distinction and Caring, recognized as One of South Florida's Most Accomplished in Health Care, recognized as an Outstanding Pioneer in Health Care, and in 2013, she was named one of South Florida's Top 50 Most Powerful Business Leaders by Legacy Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Sears for all she has achieved. She exemplifies the high quality of volunteerism and civic leadership that we aspire to instill across the country.

HONORING J. McCAULEY BROWN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special Kentuckian, J. McCauley (Mac) Brown. Mac lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Brown earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University. While he was in college, he worked

during the summers at Brown-Forman Corporation, which was founded by his great-grandfather George Garvin Brown. After graduation in 1977, he began his full-time career at Brown-Forman. He worked in sales and marketing. He served as a Brand Director and a Regional Director before becoming Vice President in 2002. After a long and distinguished career in one of Kentucky's signature industries, Mr. Brown retired in 2015.

Mac Brown accepted the role as Chairman on the Republican Party of Kentucky following his retirement in 2015. Under his leadership, the state party made historic advances. After a very successful eight years, Mr. Brown resigned his position as Chairman in 2023. He lives in Louisville with his wife Eileen. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Mac Brown has been a leader in the distillery industry and a leader in the political realm. He is a man who leads with dignity, character, and kindness. Mac Brown is widely respected, and I am honored to lift up his contributions to Kentucky before Congress.

HONORING LT. COL. EDWIN
COTTRELL

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hendersonville, N.C. resident and 102-year-old Army veteran, Lt. Col. Edwin Cottrell, in recognition of his service and heroism as a fighter pilot in World War II.

Ed flew 65 missions in 1944 and 1945 as a P-47 pilot with the 493rd Fighter Squadron of the 48th Fighter Group of the 9th Army Air Force.

Many of Ed's missions were flown during the Battle of the Bulge, when U.S. troops on the ground were defending against a strong German counteroffensive. His missions included bombing German artillery and Tiger Tanks, as well as taking out bridges. His service saved countless of his comrades' lives.

The engine of Ed's P-47 was shot up by a German Me-109 fighter during a mission on Dec. 17, 1944. With oil splattered across his plane's windshield and only 10 out of 18 engine cylinders still functioning, Ed was guided to the nearest friendly airfield over the radio, only to have his engine freeze just before landing. He maneuvered a dead-stick landing, rolled to a stop, and kissed the ground when he got out of the P-47. To this day, he credits the reliability of the P-47's Pratt & Whitney engine for getting him back to base.

Ed's service did not end with WWII. He went on to serve in the Air Force reserves for 28 years. He worked as a director of athletics at a school for boys and later coached multiple sports at West Chester State College in Pennsylvania, where he went on to become the associate dean.

In his adopted town of Hendersonville, Ed is a local legend. Ever the adventurer, he chose to go skydiving for his 100th birthday.

Ed and his college sweetheart, Millie Cottrell, raised two loving daughters, Susan and Mary, and celebrated 76 years of marriage together before her passing in 2020.

I thank Lt. Col. Cottrell for his brave and tireless service to our great Nation.

HONORING DR. ROSLYN CLARK
ARTIS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the renaming of the administration building at Benedict College in honor of President Roslyn Clark Artis. Effective immediately, the building formerly known as the Benedict College Administration Building will be officially recognized as the Roslyn Clark Artis Administration Building.

This historic decision reflects the profound impact of President Artis' visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence in higher education. As the first woman President of Benedict College, President Artis has shattered barriers and inspired countless individuals with her dedication to equity, inclusion, and academic achievement.

President Artis' remarkable journey to this momentous occasion is a testament to her resilience, intellect, and passion for empowering underrepresented communities. Prior to her presidency at Benedict College, Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis served as the first woman President of Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Florida. Throughout her tenure, she had earned numerous accolades and honors, including being named "Female HBCU President of the Year" by HBCU Digest and receiving the American Council on Education (ACE) Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation.

Beyond her exceptional leadership at Benedict College, President Artis has been a tireless advocate for educational access and opportunity. Her impact extends far beyond the confines of the campus, as evidenced by her appointment to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) and her leadership roles in various educational organizations.

The renaming of the administration building is a fitting tribute to President Artis' extraordinary legacy and contributions to higher education. It symbolizes our collective appreciation for her transformative leadership and steadfast commitment to advancing the mission of Benedict College.

As we gather here today to celebrate this historic moment, let us also reaffirm our commitment to supporting President Artis and ensuring that her vision for Benedict College continues to thrive for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to President Roslyn Clark Artis on this well-deserved honor. May the Roslyn Clark Artis Administration Building stand as a testament to her enduring legacy and inspire future generations of leaders to strive for excellence in all their endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET HOTOPP

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret Hotopp of Evergreen, Colorado. Margaret was selected as one of

only 15 high school students nationwide to represent the United States through the State Department's Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Abroad Program.

Created in 1993 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the FLEX program sought to foster meaningful relationships between students from countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia with Americans and citizens of other countries. The modern FLEX Abroad program sends high-achieving American students to Eastern Europe and Western Asia to develop leadership skills, learn new languages, and represent our country as citizen ambassadors.

This year, Margaret will travel to Poland, attending school, living with a host family, and collaborating with the Department of State to integrate into her host community and promote mutual understanding between Americans and the Polish people.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Margaret Hotopp for this impressive accomplishment and I wish her all the best for her year in Poland.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN YARBROUGH,
COOK COUNTY CLERK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Cook County Clerk, Karen Yarbrough, who passed away on April 7, leaving decades of community family and political service. Karen was an active member of the Westside Black Elected Officials of Chicago, Illinois, a group for which I serve as Secretary and reflect their views.

Clerk Yarbrough was born on December 19, 1957, into a prominent family and from an early age began serving others, following in the footsteps of her father, Rev. Don Williams, a businessman, minister, and politician, at one time the Mayor of Maywood, Illinois.

Clerk Yarbrough's dedication to public service and her passion for advocating on behalf of people led her to be elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 2001 where she represented her district with energy, integrity, insight, and tenacity—earning the respect and admiration of her constituents and colleagues alike.

Clerk Yarbrough had a long list of legislative accomplishments, including bans on the death penalty and indoor smoking and the first ever lottery ticket, the Quality of Life Ticket, named "Red Ribbon Cash" to support HIV/AIDS prevention and education.

Clerk Yarbrough's commitment to fairness, transparency, and efficiency in government inspired her to seek the office of Cook County Recorder of Deeds in 2012, where she became the first African American to hold this position and worked tirelessly to modernize operations, increase accessibility to public records, and ensure equitable access to homeownership for all residents of Cook County.

Clerk Yarbrough's exemplary leadership and dedication to public service were further recognized when she was elected as the Cook County Clerk in 2018, where she continued her legacy of advocating for transparency, accessibility, and accountability in government

while also overseeing critical functions, such as elections, vital records, and property tax administration.

Clerk Yarbrough's lifelong commitment to public service, her unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others, and her remarkable leadership have left an indelible mark on our community, inspiring countless individuals to pursue their dreams and work toward a more just and equitable society.

We, the Westside Black Elected Officials, express our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Clerk Karen Yarbrough during this difficult time, and extend our heartfelt gratitude for sharing her with us.

Further, we honor the memory of Clerk Karen Yarbrough by reaffirming our commitment to carrying forward her legacy of service, compassion, and advocacy and by working tirelessly to build a more just, equitable, and inclusive society in which all people can thrive and be included as equal members.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NOBIE MAE HILL

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize longtime Inkster and 12th District resident Nobie Mae Hill as we mourn her passing at the age of one hundred eleven.

Born and raised in Alabama, Ms. Hill was no stranger to a life of hard work, having spent years working on a plantation. After marrying and starting a family, Ms. Hill and her family moved to Michigan, settling in Inkster in the 1940s. She lived a full and vibrant life and became an integral part of the community. A trailblazer, Ms. Hill owned and operated two beauty salons in Inkster. She was also an active member of Inkster's Springhill Baptist Church.

Nobie Mae Hill was a beloved member of the community. Her kindness and warmth will be missed by all who knew her. Please join me in honoring her memory.

HONORING NANCY S. DAWKINS

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy S. Dawkins, an outstanding educator and community leader, on the momentous occasion of her 100th birthday.

Nancy S. Dawkins was born on October 11, 1923, in Dania, Florida. She received degrees from Bethune Cookman College, Florida A & M University, and the University of Northern Colorado. She worked in the Dade County Public School System for over 30 years. She was married for over 52 years to the late former Miami City Commissioner, Miller Dawkins.

As a dean in South Florida's political arena, her activism and influence ranges from Federal, Local and State Judges; Members of the United States Congress on both sides of the

aisle; Members of both Houses of the Florida Legislature; Dade County and the City of Miami Commissioners and Managers along with numerous employees in all these institutions. Mrs. Dawkins worked tirelessly and supported many elected officials during their successful campaigns, such as Governor Bob Graham, U.S. Congressman Claude Pepper, U.S. Congresswoman Carrie Meek, U.S. Congresswoman FEDERICA WILSON, Florida Representative Joe Lang Kershaw, County Commissioner Barbara Carey, Florida Representative and School Board Member Dorothy Mindingall, Florida and Miami City Commission Miller Dawkins, Miami Mayor and Commissioner Xavier Suarez, and Florida Representative Gwen Cherry.

This Miami activist was a founder of the Theodore Gibson Oratorical Contest. This contest is named after the late Reverend Theodore Gibson, a former City of Miami Commissioner and community activist. The competition is designed to refine school children's public speaking skills. Mrs. Dawkins is a former Girl Scout Troop leader. She is a member of the American Association of University Women. She is a member of Mt. Zion AME Church in Dania Beach, Florida where she serves as a Stewardess. She has received numerous awards for her service to the community, including a "Women of Impact", Sojourner Truth Award, Dr. Martin Luther King Service Award, U.S. Congressional Award, and numerous other awards and appreciations. Mrs. Nancy Dawkins served as Founder and Charter member of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women—South Florida in every official and organizational position. At the 2015 District Conference, she was presented a "Strands of Wisdom" golden medallion for her 50 years of service to the Business and Professional Women's Club. In 2018, she was recognized by Bethune Cookman University as the institution's oldest living graduate and Ms. Mary McLeod Bethune's last living student.

The City of Miami has recognized Mrs. Dawkins countless throughout the years. Northwest 50th Street between 12th and 17th Avenues was designated "Mrs. Nancy S. Dawkins Way" in her honor in 2018. Also, the Miller and Nancy Dawkins Swimming Complex was named after her and her husband at Charles Hadley Park.

She is a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and is still active in the Delta Dears. She is a charter member of National Council of Negro Women, charter member and founder of Northwest Miami Chapter No. 4686 of AARP. She is still active in her National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, the Allapattah Homeowners Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mrs. Dawkins for becoming a centenarian, and her ten decades of dedication and service to the community.

HONORING MIDWAY UNIVERSITY EQUINE PROGRAM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Equine Studies program at Midway University.

Midway University is located in the heart of Kentucky's horse country. The equine industry is one of Kentucky's signature industries. Seeing an opportunity to train Midway students for support staff jobs, the University began their equine program in 1974. Stables and horses were leased, and in the first year 50 students were enrolled. The program grew, and in 1978 plans were underway for an indoor arena on campus.

Over the years, the program has evolved from basic horsemanship and hands-on skills to much broader studies. Riding courses developed into competitive college-sponsored teams. Students now have the opportunity to concentrate in Equine Management, Equine Rehabilitation, or Equine Science. Students have access to a large equine herd of various breeds and disciplines. Hands-on learning experiences are available on Midway's working horse farm. In 2023, Midway University started an online program in Equine Business and Sales. They also offer an online MBA with Equine Management concentration.

Graduates from Midway have entered every type of equine business throughout Kentucky, the United States, and internationally. Over the past 50 years Midway has provided high-quality equine educational opportunities for students from across the country.

I appreciate the work of the dedicated staff at Midway University. They have many accomplishments to celebrate as they look back at 50 years of equine education. The future for the Equine Studies program is bright and it is my honor to recognize Midway University before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY YAN

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anthony Yan of Westminster, Colorado. Anthony is one of only a few high school students across the country to be awarded the prestigious National Security Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship. As part of this program, Anthony will travel to Taiwan this summer to engage in intensive instruction in the Mandarin language, while living with a local host family and becoming immersed in Taiwanese culture.

Launched in 2006, NSLI-Y gives high-achieving American high school students the opportunity to gain rigorous instruction and immersive experiences learning languages critical to America's national security and global cooperation. Many NSLI-Y alumni go on to distinguished careers in national security and public service using the language skills gained through this scholarship program.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Anthony Yan for this impressive accomplishment and wish him all the best on his upcoming travels to Taiwan.

HONORING MICHAEL PERUSICH AS
VETERAN OF THE MONTH FOR
MICHIGAN'S 9TH DISTRICT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Michael Perusich, our Veteran of the Month for April 2024 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. It is a privilege to acknowledge the service and dedication of a distinguished American veteran whose contributions and sacrifices have left a lasting impact on our Nation.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, in 1942, Michael graduated from Henry Ford High School in 1961. After a brief period working in California in the field of electronics and communications, Michael returned to Michigan and enlisted in the Air Force in November 1963, where he specialized in Top Secret Communications Maintenance.

Michael's service took him to the historic island of Iwo Jima from September 1964 to 1965, where he played a crucial role in supporting communications and the Far East Network from this strategic location. His dedication and skill were further exemplified during his two tours in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967, marking a significant chapter in his military career.

After honorably concluding his service, Michael embarked on a successful career with Control Data Corporation, yet his commitment to serving his fellow veterans never wavered. He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4659 in 1992, where he has been an active and valued member for over 30 years. Rising through the ranks to Sr. Vice Commander, Michael has been instrumental in supporting the Post, the Honor Guard, and the Macomb County Honor Guard, demonstrating unwavering dedication to the veteran community.

Michael's contributions extend beyond his military service; he is deeply involved in the local community, regularly assisting in ceremonies honoring veterans. His recognition with the "White Hat" at the 2016 State VFW Convention is a testament to his commitment to veteran support programs, community service, and hospital service.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Perusich's life is a testament to the spirit of American courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication to service. His contributions both in uniform and as a veteran advocate have significantly impacted the lives of many and serve as a beacon of inspiration for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our gratitude to Michael Perusich, not only as being named my district's Veteran of the Month but as a true American hero whose legacy of service and community continues to enrich our great Nation.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

SPEECH OF

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the lives of the six construction

workers who passed away as a result of the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, Dorian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, Miguel Luna, Jose Mynor Lopez, and Carlos Hernández.

These men who lost their lives while working on the Bridge were everyday heroes.

These men could've been our fathers, brothers, grandsons, or nephews.

That evening, they arrived at work proudly as immigrants, ready to help build this country with their own two hands by undertaking hazardous and challenging tasks that others refused.

Their dedication reminds us that immigrants should be celebrated and acknowledged for contributing to this country—not vilified and attacked for where they come from, the color of their skin, or their accent.

They deserve to be praised and remembered. We should be inspired by their tenacity and dedication to pursuing the American Dream for themselves and their loved ones.

We will continue to work on behalf of our immigrant community in honor of these brave souls. We will rebuild the Bridge and help build an immigration infrastructure that celebrates our workers.

HONORING SHARON J. STONE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Ms. Sharon Stone for 35 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Ms. Stone, known as "Sherry" by friends and family, has made outstanding contributions to our country for more than three decades as part of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Ms. Stone's career with the DoD started in 1989 with Army Medicine in Europe where she served for 10 years and played a pivotal role in implementing centralized medical business operations across Army Europe, aligning personnel, workload, and financial systems. In 1999, she was named the Army Medical Expense and Reporting Program Manager. As Program Manager, she provided crucial medical cost accounting education and training to Army military treatment facilities, significantly impacting the Medical Expense and Performance Reporting System.

In 2004, Ms. Stone spearheaded the development of the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) Performance Planning Program, translating strategy into action and facilitating the budget allocation of \$6.3 billion for healthcare delivery. In February 2018, Ms. Stone received recognition from the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army for her contributions to MEDCOM and the Army.

Finally, in December 2018, Ms. Stone was requested to lead, develop, and implement the Defense Health Agency's Quadruple Aim Performance Planning process. Since then, Ms. Stone created a single, integrated, transparent process to align military treatment facilities with the Defense Health Agency's priorities. Ms. Stone received the DoD Spirit of Service Award for her display of honor, integrity, and

excellence through outstanding support as a public servant to the U.S. Department of Defense in recognition of her work.

Throughout her career, Ms. Stone has trained over 30,000 personnel across the Military Health System. Her commitment to service and her passion for sharing her knowledge and skills have proven to be valuable assets to her team. Her contributions have had a profound and positive impact on the Military Health System.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Ms. Sharon Stone for 35 years of service to our country, and in wishing her the best in her retirement.

HONORING GLOBAL INNOVATIVE
FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I use today to commemorate the 5th Annual Power & Influence Luncheon hosted by Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. and to pay tribute to their many contributions to our community.

Whereas, the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc is a non-profit organization that was incorporated in 2019 by a diverse group of professionals engaged to create global awareness for the prevention of crimes and to empower the lives of victims and survivors through support, education, service, and scholarships; and

Whereas, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed honorees of the 5th Annual Power & Influence Luncheon hosted by the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional leadership, compassion, and dedication in their efforts to uplift and support victims and survivors within our community. Among them, we commend Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava for recipient of the Power & Influencer Award, State Representative Marie Woodson, District 105, for being recognized with the Trailblazer Award, Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle as the recipient of the Justice Advocate Excellence Award, and Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody as the recipient of the Iman's Light Foundation Award. We also honor the commitment and service of Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Dept. Director Sherea Green, Hispanic Women of Distinction President & CEO Elaine Miceli Vasquez, Miami Dade College School of Health Sciences Dean Dr. Alwyn Leiba, South Region Florida Nurses Association Director Dr. Guillermo Valdes, Jewish University System President Lucy Alfonso, Quest2Freedom Founder & CEO Victor Williams, Empower U Community Health Center, Guiding Light Outreach Founder/CEO Dr. Shanika Ampah, Miami-Dade County's Office Community Advocacy Communications & Media Director Griselle Marino, Foundation of the Americas & Global Philanthropy Society CEO/Founder Rachel Pinedo, President and CEO of CMS International Group Jeff Lozama, and President of Florida Association of Non-profit Organizations, Inc. Marina Pavlov. Lastly, we recognize the dedicated service of Global Innovative Foundation's 2021–2023 Chairwoman Bernadette Pierre, recipient of the Service Excellence Award.

Whereas, the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. renders services that empower and instills confidence among individuals. Its partnerships with various organizations and support of other philanthropic causes promote awareness, activities and positive outcomes for victims and survivors of crime; and

Whereas, the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. provides local, national, and international services such as scholarships, coaching, mental health services, self-defense classes, youth-focused programs, workshops/seminars, advocacy, career development, and mentoring; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FREDERICA S. WILSON, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am proud to recognize the Global Innovative Foundation, Inc. for their dedication and outstanding commitment to motivate and empower the lives of victims and survivors.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.
JAMES M. SUNSER

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of an outstanding New Yorker and educator, President of Genesee Community College, Dr. James M. Sunser.

Dr. Sunser has spent over a decade as President of Genesee Community College and has been an invaluable leader and partner in education, fostering collaboration and strengthening the ties between Genesee Community College and the citizens of Genesee County, New York. Under Dr. Sunser's leadership, the college saw the development of the Richard C. Call Arena and the Student Success Center, capital projects that represented the largest fundraising efforts ever undertaken by the College.

Dr. Sunser has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the success and well-being of students, faculty, and staff at Genesee Community College, making significant strides in advancing educational opportunities for all. The 24th Congressional District of New York extends its heartfelt appreciation for Dr. Sunser's role in enhancing the educational experience and contributing to the overall prosperity of the region.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to Dr. Sunser for a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement, filled with joy, accomplishments, and continued success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER
SANTANGELO'S 27 YEARS OF
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
SERVICE

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation recognizing Christopher Santangelo, President of the New York City Chapter of the Federal Law

Enforcement Officers Association on his retirement after 27 years of federal law enforcement service on April 27, 2024.

Whereas Mr. Santangelo, who grew up in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn from childhood until his early 30s, is a product of a New York City Education. He graduated from Kingsborough Community College with an AAS degree in accounting, earned a BS in accounting from Brooklyn College, and obtained an MS from John Jay College.

Whereas Christopher Santangelo began his federal law enforcement career in January 1997 with the United States Park Police in Washington, D.C. where he was stationed to protect the White House in our nation's capital.

Whereas from mid-1998 to early 2000, Mr. Santangelo was assigned to the New York Field Division, where he led the JBU unit to numerous arrests, earning him the Officer of the Month award five times. Additionally, Mr. Santangelo was assigned to one or more NYPD narcotics task forces and served as a plainclothes officer with the U.S. Park Police in Operation Weed and Seed, covering areas in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

Whereas in April 2000, Mr. Santangelo became a special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and was assigned to the New York Field Division, Group V—HIDTA. Mr. Santangelo survived the World Trade Center attacks and participated in the recovery efforts for several months. As a result of his unwavering dedication, Mr. Santangelo was awarded a commendation for meritorious service for his actions during the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center attacks and the subsequent evidence recovery.

Whereas after transferring to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in June 2002, Mr. Santangelo conducted investigations into fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement related to USDA programs and operations. Mr. Santangelo conducted or participated in hundreds of program crime investigations, including inquiries into the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) EBT program, violations of the Animal Welfare Act, violations of the Sherman Act, farm loan fraud, prohibited agricultural product smuggling, and agroterrorism. He also served as the anti-money laundering subject matter expert (SME) for the Northeast Region.

Whereas for his investigative excellence, Mr. Santangelo is a past award recipient of the Council of Inspectors General (CIGIE) Investigative Excellence Award for leading a multi-million-dollar civil investigation into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Error Rate. Additionally, Mr. Santangelo received recognition from the NYPD Detective Endowment Association for his participation and assistance while being assigned part-time to the NYPD Counter Terrorism Bureau in Brooklyn, New York, from 2002 to 2005.

Whereas in February 2017, Mr. Santangelo transferred to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of Inspector General, New York Field Division, where he investigated failed banks and former members of the board of directors of failed banks. Mr. Santangelo successfully investigated global financial institutions for market manipulation in Foreign Currency (FX) trading, as well as in the High Yield Junk and Variable Rate bond markets. Additionally, Mr. Santangelo was the co-case agent in United States v. Rishi Shah, Shradha Agarwal, Brad Purdy, et al., in which the former executives were convicted in a \$1 billion corporate fraud case, resulting in him receiving the Attorney General Award in January 2024.

Whereas in June 2022, Mr. Santangelo was promoted to the SSA position within the

FDIC-OIG, New York Regional Office, which covers New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and all of New England while also serving as the lead SSA for investigations in the Eastern District of New York (encompassing Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties), leading or coordinating investigations into bank insiders, borrowers, and accountants suspected of committing bank, wire and elder fraud. Furthermore, Mr. Santangelo personally directed disaster relief and romance scam investigations in the Smithtown—Hauppauge—Kings Park area related to Hurricane Sandy, as well as investigations related to the CARES Act.

Whereas since 2009 Mr. Santangelo has served as the President of the New York Chapter of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Vice President of the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation, and is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 53.

Whereas our Nation is forever indebted to Christopher Santangelo and offers its sincerest gratitude and warmest wishes in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING CHIRICAHUA
NATIONAL MONUMENT

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chiricahua National Monument on the centennial anniversary of its designation as a national monument.

Recently, I visited the Chiricahua National Monument and explored parts of the 12,000 acres of hiking trails, campgrounds, and scenic views.

Chiricahua National Monument is one of the most treasured landmarks in Arizona. This "Wonderland of Rocks" features unique, boulder-balancing rock pillars formed by volcanic eruptions. These abstract formations draw visitors from across the nation and around the world to the Southeast corner of our state.

It is a privilege to have this incredible landscape in our own backyard. Not only does it provide great recreational opportunity and natural habitat, it is also a major driver for southern Arizona's economy.

The monument annually supports over 40 jobs and produces \$4.4 million of economic output, with 60,000 visitors that come each year generating \$4.1 million in spending.

Last year, I proudly introduced a bipartisan bill, the Chiricahua National Park Act (H.R. 1479), aiming to update the national monument to the status of a national park.

CONGRATULATING MISSISSIPPI
STATE UNIVERSITY VETERANS
BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mississippi State University (MSU) Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) on being recognized as the 2024 Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Year.

Director Mark Scott has worked tirelessly to make the MSU VBOC a place where Veterans are served well. Natalie Rhode, the program director, has also played a key role in the center's success.

The Veterans Business Outreach Center is focused on small business development for Veterans and their spouses. The center was founded in 2015 and covers Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

The Small Business Administration selected the MSU VBOC this year for its successes and unique contributions to the local community.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. The MSU VBOC is committed to excellence while supporting many local Veterans as they invest in their communities.

This award is a testament to the hard work by the outstanding team on the front lines at the VBOC.

I am thankful to have the opportunity to congratulate the Mississippi State University Veterans Business Outreach Center on the occasion of this award, and I look forward to continuing to work in Congress on behalf of our Veterans.

HONORING KIMBERLEY
EMMANUEL

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kimberley F. Emmanuel, an outstanding educator as she retires from Miami-Dade County Public Schools after 3 decades of service.

Mrs. Emmanuel received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Miami and earned a Master of Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. She also received a certificate from the Principal Institute at Harvard University.

Kimberley Emmanuel is currently the Principal of Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary in Miami, Florida, and she has served Miami-Dade County Public Schools in several capacities for the past 35 years and has led with strength and compassion. She has created a learning environment of high expectations and excellence which has guided her schools to raise their levels with state testing. As an administrator, Mrs. Emmanuel emphasized student achievement by analyzing data, and using it to drive instruction, empower teachers, provide outstanding professional development, and forming an effective leadership team to close the achievement gap.

Mrs. Emmanuel has been recognized in numerous ways over her career, including the 2011 Healthy Schools Program National Recognition Bronze Award and 2004 Finalist as a School Administrator of the Year for the Florida African American Education Alliance. She is the 2008–2009 District Finalist for Principal of the Year; 2008 Urban League of Greater Miami Principal of the Year. She is the recipient of the 2004 Distinguished Leadership Award, and a 2005 Letter of Commendation by Governor Jeb Bush as a School Recognized for Outstanding Progress—Most improvement in the State of Florida.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Emmanuel, Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary is the recipient of the 2023 Merit School of Distinction. This distinction is the second highest honor Magnet Schools of America bestows and is awarded to those that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs and parent and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mrs. Kimberley Emmanuel for all she has achieved.

RECOGNIZING KATELYN
O'CONNELL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katelyn O'Connell of Arvada, Colorado. Katelyn was selected as one of 250 high school students across the country to participate in the Department of State's prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Program.

Launched in 1983, CBYX selects high achieving youth from both Germany and the United States to live in each other's country for one academic year. During their year abroad, students will foster meaningful relationships between America and Germany, while giving participants new perspectives on peoples and cultures beyond their own. Many CBYX alumni go on to distinguished careers in foreign affairs and public service using the language skills gained through this scholarship program.

This year, Katelyn will travel to Germany, attending school, living with a host family, and collaborating with the Department of State to integrate into her host community and promote mutual understanding between Americans and the German people.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Katelyn O'Connell for this impressive accomplishment and wish her all the best in her upcoming year in Germany.

IN MEMORY OF JACK KAIN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a very special man, Mr. Jack Kain, of Versailles, Kentucky. Mr. Kain was born on June 18, 1929, and he passed away on March 26, 2024, at the age of 94.

Mr. Kain was raised on a central Kentucky farm by loving parents. In 1947, while he was a college student at the University of Kentucky, he started selling cars. Mr. Kain earned a Bachelor of Business degree from the University of Kentucky. He enjoyed cheering on teams led by coaching legends Adolph Rupp and Bear Bryant, becoming a lifelong UK fan. He served our country in the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant during the Korean War. In 1953, he opened his first auto-

mobile dealership. He continued in the automotive industry, where he built a successful lifelong career. For many years, he and his family have operated Jack Kain Ford, where they have served over 70,000 customers since the 1980s. Mr. Kain was a leader in the automobile industry. He led the National Automobile Dealers Association in 2005 as Chairman. He represented Kentucky's franchised new-car dealers on NADA's board of directors for many years.

Mr. Kain was a leader in his community and was recognized as Woodford County Chamber of Commerce's Businessman of the Year in 1992. A generous man, he supported education, medical care and research, and many other charitable efforts to make the community and the nation a better place.

More importantly than his business and community successes, Mr. Kain kept his family at the forefront of his life. He had nine children, twenty-two grandchildren, and eighteen great-grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Alice Stewart Kain and children Vickie Fister, Patrick Kain, David Kain, Steve Kain, Bob Kain, and Bill Kain. He was preceded in death by his daughters Becky Grimes and Suzanne Hockensmith and his son Jack Kain, Jr.

Jack Kain was a great man who loved his family, his community, his country, and his God. He was respected by his community and his colleagues in the automobile industry throughout America. It is my honor to call him my friend and to recognize his life before the United States House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON NA-
TIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, on the anniversary of the week of the start of the Civil War, I introduce the Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act, which would recognize and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington located in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. The Defenses of Washington, including forts, unarmed batteries and rifle trenches, created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. This bill would redesignate the 22 Civil War Defenses of Washington currently under National Park Service jurisdiction as a national historical park, and allow other sites associated with the Defenses of Washington that are owned by D.C. or a unit of state governments to be affiliated with the national historical park through cooperative agreements. This bill would also require the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the history of the Civil War, including the history of the Defenses of Washington and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, being assembled, arrayed and conveyed for the benefit of the public for the knowledge, education and inspiration of this and future generations. In 2018, the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on this bill. Although the Department of the Interior opposed this bill, I feel strongly that the Defenses of Washington need additional recognition and should be redesignated as a national historical park.

The Defenses of Washington were constructed at the beginning of the war, in 1861, as a ring of protection for the nation’s capital and for President Abraham Lincoln. By the end of the war, these defenses included 68 forts, 93 unarmed batteries, 807 mounted cannons, 13 miles of rifle trenches and 32 miles of military roads. The major test of the Defenses of Washington came with the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, when Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early, directed by General Robert E. Lee, sought to attack the nation’s capital from the north, causing Union forces threatening to attack Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, to be withdrawn. General Early was delayed by Union Major General Lew Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, and was stopped at the northern edge of Washington at the Battle of Fort Stevens on July 11–12, 1864. The Shenandoah Valley Campaign ended when Union Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan defeated General Early at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia on October 19, 1864.

Nearly all the individual forts in the Defenses of Washington—on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers—were involved in stopping General Early’s attack, and the Battle of Fort Stevens was the second and last attempt by the Confederate Army to attack Washington.

Taken together, these battles were pivotal to the outcome of the war and the freedom and democracy that the war represented for this country. It is therefore fitting that we recognize the Defenses of Washington by redesignating them as a national historical park.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING BARB HEDSTROM AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CRIME SURVIVORS AND JUSTICE CAUCUS ED STOUT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VICTIM ADVOCACY

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Barb Hedstrom, as the recipient of the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus’ 2024 Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy. Barb Hedstrom serves as Shakopee Police Department’s Victim and Community Services Coordinator.

This award’s honoree is a professional, volunteer or organization whose efforts directly benefit victims and survivors of crime. The award recognizes innovations in victim assistance and crime victim services in the areas of program development, public or agency policy development, community and public awareness, and collaboration among community and

justice-based organizations that serve crime victims.

Barb is exactly that. The Shakopee Police Department was the first police department in Minnesota to have a Victim Services Coordinator. In 2015, Barb worked with her colleagues to launch the Recovery Assistance Program (RAP), which helps those in recovery by providing scholarships to help break down barriers to treatment. Barb recently started the Law Enforcement Association of Victim Essential Services (LEAVES), which is a statewide professional association of law enforcement-based victim service providers. Due largely to Barb’s work, the Shakopee Police Department has been a leader in the State of Minnesota and across the country for victims’ services for nearly a decade and has made victim services a top priority.

It is an honor to represent Barb Hedstrom and the Shakopee Police Department in Congress. I look forward to our continued partnership in serving the Second District of Minnesota.

RECOGNIZING MRS. PAULINE BIEDKA’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pauline Biedka, a remarkable constituent from my district, and to pay tribute to her on the celebration of her 100th Birthday on April 13, 2024.

The daughter of Philomena and Luke Della Vella, Pauline was born on April 13, 1924 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—one of nine children Pauline married her husband Peter, a World War II Veteran in 1942. They moved to Bristol, Bucks County and built their forever home. They had a daughter and two sons.

Pauline was a “Rosie the Riveter” during World War II and the Korean War. During that time, she worked at Fleetwings and Kaiser Metal in Bristol, Pennsylvania. In addition, Pauline was a Neshaminy School District crossing guard for twenty-five years.

Pauline was and still is a devoted wife, remains an amazing mother, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of twelve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and all of God’s Blessings to Pauline Biedka on the celebration of her 100th Birthday.

HONORING DR. GLORIA SMITH

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a trailblazing member of the Michigan State University community: Dr. Gloria Smith. Her lifelong dedication to education, advocacy, and service has left an indelible mark on the university and beyond.

After earning her doctorate from the University of Massachusetts in 1971, Dr. Smith’s journey brought her to Michigan State University where she joined the faculty of the Department of Education. Throughout her tenure at MSU, Dr. Smith distinguished herself as a trailblazer and champion of equity, especially for women of color.

Her footprint at MSU is immeasurable. In 1972, she played a pivotal role as a member of the steering committee for the Black Women Employees Association of MSU, where she passionately advocated for the hiring of more Black women professors. Her achievements, including becoming the first Black woman to attain full professorship at MSU and being recognized on the university’s Distinguished Wall of Professors, serve as a testament to her contributions and enduring influence.

She lent her leadership and expertise as she served as the Director of African American and African Studies, as a member on the MSU Athletic Board, and on the university’s presidential search committee. In 2007, Dr. Smith retired from MSU as professor emeritus in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education.

Dr. Smith’s incredible legacy extends beyond the classroom. She was the first Black President of the Michigan Counseling Psychology and Supervision Professional Organization. She has also been a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first intercollegiate historically African American sorority, since 1958. She served as the organization’s 18th Great Lakes Regional Director and has truly embodied her sisterhood’s mission to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards and to be of service to all mankind.

Dr. Smith continues to show her commitment to education and serving others as a member of her local chapter of the Links, Incorporated, an organization dedicated to promoting quality education, civic responsibility, and enhancing the quality of life of their communities. She is also a cherished member of her church, The Friendship Baptist Church, where she lives their cote value of serving without restraint.

With profound gratitude for her extraordinary contributions to Michigan State University and her lifelong mission to uplift her community, it is my honor to recognize her service here, in the People’s House.