

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING TARA BALLANTYNE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Tara Ballantyne, who serves as the President of Lion's Club in Inverness. Tara also volunteers in her local church, Serves as Secretary of the Gulf Coast Manatees Homeschool Group Inc, and with the Business Women's Alliance, which is a part of the Citrus County Chamber. Needless to say, she is heavily involved in her community and has a big heart with a mission to serve. Tara strives for success and puts her heart into all that she does. She never takes her job lightly and is a wonderful role model. As President of the Lions Club, she makes sure the organization remains relevant and active. She is involved in making decisions and getting out in the community to share the mission of the organization. She spearheads bi-annual clean-ups. Tara also helped secure an eye vision screening grant. With this grant, the organization goes to local schools and community events to provide free vision screenings. It also helps multiple non-profit organizations, provides donations, games and vision screenings and support throughout the year. She also orchestrates toy drives and donations for families at Christmas time. When our community was hit hard by a recent hurricane, Tara organized a Disaster Relief Donation Drive.

It is clear that Ms. Ballantyne has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING VALERIE ANDERSON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Valerie Anderson, who has served as an active member of Premier Community HealthCare's Patient and Community Advisory Council since July 2021 and on the Board of Directors since January 2022. She brings a wealth of experience to the organization with her background as the former Director of Housing and Special Programs at the Pasco County Housing Authority as well as more than two decades working with the American Cancer Society. She is often the first person to step up to take a leadership role for Premier programs and events. For the past two years, Valerie has served as the Event Chair of Premier's Annual Community Impact Breakfast raising nearly \$100,000 each year to support the organization's mission to expand accessible healthcare for all.

Valerie is also a Premier patient and has family members and loved ones who have benefited from Premier's medical, dental and behavioral health services. She is a champion for advocating for the need for quality, affordable healthcare and understands the impact it makes on the overall health of our community. In addition to her volunteer work, she also financially supports the Federally-Qualified Community Health Center's events. Valerie is now the Chair of Premier's Community Engagement and Stewardship Board Committee. Under her leadership, Premier is going to continue to expand its reach to build additional resources. Valerie humbles herself and always finds time to volunteer for other local non-profit organizations who share similar visions and missions including: the African American Club, Dress for Success, and Africa's Children's Heart. She is always available to help those in need.

It is clear that Ms. Anderson has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

OBSERVING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. This devastating event, recognized worldwide, saw the brutal massacre of over 1,000,000 Tutsi in a hundred days by the Hutu-led Government and their Hutu neighbors. It was a chillingly systematic act of genocide.

Tragically, even Hutu who opposed the genocidal plan were not spared during this dark period. The scale of this atrocity stands as a severe violation of human rights and the principles of justice, inflicting immeasurable pain and suffering.

The genocide against the Tutsi serves as a somber reminder of the collective responsibility we share, both in the United States and globally, to protect the vulnerable, champion human rights, and prevent such horrors from recurring.

Every April 7th, the world has come together to commemorate this genocide, honoring the memory of the men, women, and children who lost their lives and standing in solidarity with the survivors.

This annual commemoration is not merely an act of remembrance. It serves to foster understanding among diverse communities and strengthens our collective commitment to human rights, safeguarding against persecution and violence, upholding individual liberties, and advocating for a free and inclusive society for all.

Therefore, let us:

Observe the 30th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, remembering both the victims and survivors of this tragedy.

Acknowledge and commend the ongoing efforts of the people and Government of Rwanda in promoting peace, unity, reconciliation, and development, pledging our continued support for these endeavors.

Reaffirm our unwavering commitment to Rwanda's mission of preventing genocide and other mass atrocities, and to advancing human rights and democratic values across the globe.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN AND STEPHANIE BRIJBAG

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by my constituents, Brian and Stephanie Brijbag. In honor of their daughter who has autism, the couple created the Brijbag Family Foundation which has started a project called Rachel's Room. These rooms were designed with the input of a certified behavioral analyst who helps create safe and supportive learning environments for children with special needs. It is a pro-active approach to helping all kids maximize their potential while also enabling teachers to engage learners in a more functional space. The feedback and positive results stemming from this project have been phenomenal. Schools and other organizations have requesting access to a replicated version of Rachel's Room. Brian and Stephanie have also purchased \$1.6 million worth of medical debt to help improve the lives of families in Pasco, Citrus, and Hernando who were struggling with the burden of medical debt. The Brijbag family is incredibly generous with their time, talents and treasure.

It is clear that Mr. and Mrs. Brijbag has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present to vote on April 15, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on Roll Call No. 120; YES on Roll Call No. 121; YES on Roll Call No. 122; and NO on Roll Call No. 123.

● 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.

COMMEMORATING LEADERSHIP
SOUTH BEND-MISHAWAKA'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate everyone at Leadership South Bend-Mishawaka on their upcoming 50th anniversary celebration in May, and in particular, the members of Class 50 on their commencement ceremonies.

As a proud member of Leadership SBM's Signature Leadership Class 43 back in 2017, I know firsthand what an invaluable resource and great organization Leadership SBM really is. Leadership SBM plays a vital role in getting young people better connected within our community and with their peers across a wide spectrum of professions and fields. In fact, I'm still proud to count many of my classmates from Class 43 as dear friends to this day.

Leadership SBM is instrumental in forming tomorrow's local leaders; leaders who will create the kinds of opportunities we all will benefit from. Additionally, the opportunities Leadership SBM provides for continued learning, social connection, and community service projects is a big part of what makes our region in northern Indiana so special. For all these reasons and more, I am proud to be counted as one of Leadership SBM's many alumni going back a half-century.

Congratulations to Leadership SBM on this impressive milestone and on 50 years of excellence. I hope everyone enjoys the very well-deserved 50th anniversary celebration in May, and I look forward to congratulating Leadership SBM on many more anniversaries in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING ERIN CARTER-
HARVEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Erin Carter-Harvey, for her efforts with Steele Tryin', a non-profit that organizes events and support for those in the community who are struggling. Most recently, she organized a "drive-by honking" where droves of cars paraded past the house of a local child who was dying of cancer. The activity lifted his spirits. She has also helped single moms who are struggling financially with getting their yards mowed for free. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Ms. Carter-Harvey has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

HONORING THE ARC OF NEW
JERSEY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to the Arc of New Jersey as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

For the past 75 years, the Arc of New Jersey has admirably supported individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They have made a significant impact by securing quality education and healthcare, equipping disabled individuals with vital workplace skills, and advocating for this community at all levels of government. The Arc of New Jersey has certainly improved the quality of life for thousands of New Jersey residents, and the Seventh District is both proud and grateful to have such an outstanding organization operating in our communities.

I wish the Arc of New Jersey a wonderful 75th anniversary. I thank them again for their dedication and passion to making our communities safer, healthier, and more inclusive places to live and work. I have no doubt that this organization will continue to thrive in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes due to a weather delay at the airport which prevented me from getting to Washington in time. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 123; YEA on Roll Call No. 122; YEA on Roll Call No. 121; and YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR D'AMBROSIO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Mayor Vincent "Mike" D'Ambrosio, who volunteers at least 30 hours per week in service to the Town of St. Leo. He's been on the Commission since 2020, and has been Mayor since 2022. Under his leadership, the Town has made many advances, including:

Increasing Public Advocacy for Town needs by meeting with state and federal lawmakers, resulting in the Town's first appropriation in its 131-year history.

Hosting seven "Coffee with the Mayor" events attended by more than 250 people.

Facilitating improved communication and involvement with key stakeholders, including: Saint Leo Abbey, Holy Name Monastery, Discovery Fellowship, and Saint Leo University.

Building partnerships to expand participation in: the Saint Leo University Tree Lighting and

Christmas Village, the Greased Pig Contest at the Saint Leo University Fall Festival, and the Dade City Chamber of Commerce Access East Pasco.

Purchasing land to develop a Town Center which will serve as a local gathering spot that enriches the quality of life of the residents and the community.

Establishing the Town's first internship program.

Mayor Mike is charitable, humble, kind, and passionate. His volunteerism with the Saint Leo Sporting Clays Team and the Church Truth Seekers has also been invaluable. While there may only be 24 hours in a day, Mayor Mike dedicates almost every hour of his days to helping others.

It is clear that Mayor Vincent "Mike" D'Ambrosio has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter, I was unable to be in D.C. and vote on April 15, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 123.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

RECOGNIZING DAVID GONZALEZ

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, David Gonzalez, who is a valued volunteer with several community organizations in Hernando County and has been a long-time employee of our community's electric cooperative, Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative. In this capacity, he has served as the face of the organization in the community, presenting millions of dollars in credit refunds to local governments and school boards. Mr. Gonzalez has also served in key leadership roles on the Board of Directors for several non-profits in Hernando with the highest levels of dedication, including: the Hernando Chamber of Commerce, Hernando Education Foundation, Hernando Economic Development Council, Oak Hill Hospital Board, and the United Way of Hernando Board. Whenever there has been a need, Mr. Gonzalez has stepped forward to address it, without concern for who gets the credit. A truly humble problem-solver, Mr.

Gonzalez embodies the concept of servant leadership and has made a lasting impact on the organizations and communities he has served. While we wish him all the best in his upcoming retirement, we know that his departure from the cooperative will leave behind a void that will not easily be replaced.

It is clear that Mr. Gonzalez has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote No. 120 through 123 on April 15, 2024 because my flight to Washington, D.C. was diverted due to weather conditions. Had I been present: on Roll Call vote No. 120, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call vote No. 121, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call vote No. 122, I would have voted YES; and on Roll Call vote No. 123, I would have voted NO.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO, LETICIA FERRER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate this week's Hometown Hero, Leticia Ferrer. During last week's solar eclipse, Leticia's lifelong fascination with the movement of the sun and the moon gave her the opportunity to lead a project in North Texas funded by NASA. Leticia's passion for things out-of-this-world started in childhood and she's dedicated her life to documenting and filming eclipses across the globe. Collecting data on the sun throughout her viewings, last week the Farmer's Branch native had the opportunity to work with the Citizen CATE project as a coordinator of scientific viewing teams of the eclipse at home in North Texas. The Citizen CATE project works with NASA and the National Science Foundation to collect data on the magnetic structure and energy of the sun's corona. Leticia helped lead four teams of North Texans through the process of properly collecting the necessary data and using telescopes to gather images to be studied for years to come. I'm inspired by Leticia's dedication to the advancement of solar science and thankful for her outreach in North Texas during the total solar eclipse.

RECOGNIZING THE IVANOVSKY FAMILY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by the Ivanovsky

Family. The Twistid Arts Initiative was born out of the desire to raise awareness of and increase access to all forms of visual and performing arts in Citrus County. Prior to the creation of this non-profit organization, youth in Citrus County had limited opportunities for exposure to successful arts-based careers. In response, this non-profit organization was developed to provide innovative programming, hands-on education, and immersive events throughout the community.

The Ivanovsky Family has jumped in to help at every Twistid Arts event that has been held to date. They are extremely dedicated to the cause and are willing to do even the most menial tasks to ensure events and programs run smoothly. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that the Ivanovsky Family is making a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

CELEBRATING THE ROBBINS AREA LIBRARY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Robbins Area Library for thirty years of service to the people of Moore County.

Thirty years ago, this library was established to serve as a center for community and learning for the people of Robbins, North Carolina. Before it was built, folks had to travel to neighboring towns in order to visit a library. But now Robbins' library has emerged as an integral part of the town. The library houses thousands of books, provides internet access in an area where coverage is limited, and caters to the learning of people of all ages. Additionally, it serves as a central meeting spot, hosting children's events, book groups, movie groups, sports clubs, and more.

Numerous folks have been integral to the success of this storied landmark. This includes people like Theron Bell, who was the chief advocate for the establishment of the library back in the 1990's, and Clara Bernicken, a thirty-year veteran of the local library system and one of the lead story tellers at Robbins. They, and many others, have performed a tremendous service to our community in Moore County. I think I speak for everyone in Moore County in thanking them for all they have done and continue to do.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the Robbins Area Library and all those who have helped it grow and develop on the thirtieth anniversary of its establishment.

CELEBRATING THE NETWORK OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE'S 50TH YEAR OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding work of the Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA), as it commemorates its 50th year of service to the residents of Bucks County. NOVA stands as a beacon of hope and support for victims of serious crimes and their families. NOVA's mission of providing support, counsel, and empowerment of victims of sexual assault and abuse in our region manifests itself through its tireless advocacy and community education.

NOVA directly assists over 3,000 victims annually, providing them with crucial support and resources during their time of need. Additionally, their team of educators conducts personal safety training for approximately 30,000 individuals each year, spanning across different age groups from children to adults. By utilizing individual and group counseling, victims of sexual assault and abuse can regain control of their lives, and through education programs, children and communities learn to be advocates for victims of abuse, as well as prevention and personal safety.

By empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves, NOVA plays a vital role in fostering safer communities. The organization's reputation for delivering exemplary services and programs is well-deserved and wide recognized both statewide and beyond.

In conclusion, as NOVA celebrates its 50th anniversary, let us commend and express our gratitude to all the staff, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to its success over the years. I am thankful to work with their President, Sarah Larson, Executive Director, Penny Ettinger, and the many other NOVA staff and volunteers serving Bucks County. I am proud to support them in their mission to stand for victims in the fight to end sexual assault.

RECOGNIZING JANINE KELL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Ms. Janine Kell. Ms. Kell is an engaged and dedicated volunteer with Warrior 321, an anti-human trafficking awareness group. Most recently, Janine was instrumental in hosting the community's second annual Light Up the Night Hernando event to bring awareness about human trafficking to the county.

Janine never sleeps and has truly dedicated her life in every way to fighting on behalf of the vulnerable. In addition to her work to prevent the horrific crime of human trafficking, Janine regularly speaks at local schools, educating students on the Monique Burr curriculum. The Monique Burr curriculum is a

comprehensive, evidence-based program for kids in grades K–5. It empowers children and relevant adults with information and strategies to prevent, recognize, and appropriately respond to bullying, cyberbullying, abuse, and digital abuse dangers. Beyond advocacy, Janine will often work directly with children who have been victims of abuse to help ensure they get the support they need to fully recover. Her compassion and empathy know no bounds.

It is clear that Ms. Kell has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and on the lives of countless people she has worked with. I am grateful for her service.

HONORING THE LANCASTER VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS FOR SEVENTY-ONE YEARS OF INVALUABLE SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corps for its 71 years of emergency medical service to Western New York. Operating every day of every year, the volunteer first responders who comprise Lancaster Ambulance often serve as the first and most crucial contact for those suffering from profound medical distress. Lancaster Ambulance's impact on Town of Lancaster, Village of Lancaster, Town of Alden, Village of Alden, and Village of Depew is unquestionable, with its volunteers responding to an astounding 7,553 calls last year alone. These dedicated emergency responders are treating our friends and neighbors amidst their darkest hours, and I am proud to recognize their community service and high level of professionalism in the line of duty.

On behalf of Congress and the 23rd Congressional District, I commend the men and women serving as part of the Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corp. I include in the RECORD the names of the Lancaster Ambulance Board and Management Team into the RECORD as a sign of respect and appreciation for their service and all the members of this important organization:

Chester Popiolkowski—President
William Revelas—Vice President
Christopher Yockey—Secretary
Robert Over—Treasurer
Amy Revelas—Director of Operations
Nancy Revelas—Director
Allison Abraham—Director
John O'Donnell—Director
Jonathan Hunter—Director
Robert Sank—Chief of Compliance
Brian Fenik—Chief of Narcotics
Lynn O'Donnell—Training Coordinator

I ask that this legislative body joins me in celebrating the Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corps for its over seven decades of service. We thank the many generations of first responders who have protected the Town of Lancaster and its surrounding area through this exemplary organization.

CELEBRATING EDUCATION AND SHARING DAY IN HONOR OF THE REBBE

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, April 19, 2024, corresponding to the 11th of Nissan, marks the birthday of Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, known as "the Rebbe." It is celebrated worldwide and in all 50 states across our great country, including my home state of South Dakota.

This day is also observed as "Education & Sharing Day" in recognition of the Rebbe's deep commitment to bettering the education of all people. He emphasized that education should not merely be about imparting knowledge but must instill values essential for living a meaningful life, fostering moral character, and contributing to the betterment of individuals and society at large. These moral and ethical principles have served as the foundation of civilization since time immemorial.

Like two of the greatest Jewish leaders known to humanity in their times, Moses and Maimonides, whom we honor with their bas-reliefs adorning the walls of this august body, the Rebbe provided leadership, guidance, and healing in our times. This body is honored to have awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Rebbe said that from his earliest childhood days, he envisioned seeing the world come to a state of peace. Through decades of dedicated service and leadership, while guiding many of our nation's leaders, he exemplified how humanity, through moral education, charitable deeds, and acts of kindness, can bring our world to a state where "swords are turned into plowshares," with peace and prosperity for all inhabitants of God's world.

On the Rebbe's birthday, it is fitting that we honor him by striving to apply his teachings with greater diligence, embodying his vision of a world illuminated by compassion and goodwill for all.

RECOGNIZING JOE MARINA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Joe Marina, who is a valued volunteer with several community organizations and has been a long-time employee of our community's electric cooperative, Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative. In this capacity, he has served as the face of the organization in the community, presenting millions of dollars of credit refunds to local governments and school boards. Mr. Marina embodies the heart of a true public servant, lending his expertise, passion, time and energy into all he has been involved with. He has served in key leadership roles on the Board of Directors for United Way of Pasco, the Pasco Economic Development Council, the Boys and Girls Club, the Vincent House and several other local nonprofits. Mr.

Marina doesn't just lend his name to a cause; when he commits to something, he goes "all-in"—above and beyond to make a lasting imprint on the lives of those his work touches. For more than 25 years, whenever there has been an unmet need in the community, Mr. Marina has stepped up to the plate to make sure the job is done, and done right. He has worked tirelessly on countless large-scale community projects to enrich the lives of the people of Pasco County and to create opportunities for future residents. He has helped to transform Pasco from a bedroom community to one in which people can truly live, play and work. His compassion and his desire to empower others to realize their full potential knows no bounds. As he embarks upon his well-deserved retirement, he leaves behind a legacy of selfless service, commitment to others, and humble leadership. His shoes will be big to fill.

It is clear that Mr. Marina has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CONGRATULATING THE PICKETT COUNTY LADY BOBCATS ON CLAIMING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, for many of the folks I represent in the Upper Cumberland Region of Middle Tennessee, this year feels a lot like 1989.

That's the last time the Pickett County Lady Bobcats were named TSSAA girls basketball state champions. They reclaimed that title last month, when they defeated the Moore County Lady Raiders, 56–45, in the Class 1A final.

And this championship, Mr. Speaker, was a family affair. Lady Bobcats Guard Zoe Nicholas now joins her aunt and grandmother in having been members of a Pickett County state championship team. It doesn't stop there. Nicholas' cousin, Callie Reeder, is also on the winning team and was even named tournament MVP.

The coach that led the team to victory, Brent Smith, has a brother named Barry, who happened to coach the last winning team 35 years ago.

It's important to note that even though this is the first state championship in a while, the program does very well every season. It's also important to note that each time the Lady Bobcats have made it out of the quarterfinals and advanced to the state championship, they've won. I want to congratulate the current champions for keeping that now six-time winning streak alive.

I am proud to represent Pickett County, and many places like it, that take so much pride in their families, communities, and their home team.

I would now like to recognize everyone who carried the team to victory. Players included: Senior Allie Amonett, Senior Ella K. Keisling, Junior Emmy Lowe, Junior Callie Reeder, Junior Kaylee Tompkins, Sophomore Addison Lowe, Sophomore Zoey Nicholas, Sophomore Kylie Wood, and Freshman Emma Tompkins. Managers included: Senior Nikki Gunter, Junior Addie Keisling, and Junior Ava Keisling. I'd

also like to recognize Head Coach Brent Smith and Assistant Coach Rochelle Mason for the win.

Again, congratulations to the Pickett County Lady Bobcats, the 2024 TSSAA 1A Girls Basketball State Champions.

CONGRATULATING LARRY FOSTER

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Foster of the Navajo Nation for his induction into the North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame. This honor demonstrates the outstanding leadership and athletic achievement of Mr. Foster. It is a hallmark of his commitment and dedication.

Foster was a student at Window Rock High School in Arizona where he earned All State and All Conference Honors in baseball, football, and basketball from 1966 to 1969. Upon graduating high school, he continued to play baseball at Bacone Juniors College in Muskogee, Oklahoma and later Adam State College in Alamosa, Colorado. He was named as the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Batting Champion in 1971 with a batting average of .442.

After college, Foster played semi-pro baseball and was a nine-time All Tournament outfield and batting champion and continued to play in All Indian baseball tournaments from 1964 to 1976.

Foster now resides in Gallup, New Mexico with his wife Mattie Foster. He continues to be an active member of his community, including being a local sportswriter. Ná b hózh to

Mr. Foster. We are grateful for his contribution to sports in New Mexico.

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABILENE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Abilene Baptist Church in Georgia's 12th District.

Established near Augusta, Georgia and founded by the pioneering Baptist minister Daniel Marshall, the centuries-long history of Abilene continues to bring hope and unity of God's word to our communities.

As we reflect on 250 years of faith, fellowship, and service, we also remember the journey that has brought us to this moment—through the many challenges, countless blessings, and cherished milestones.

This anniversary is not just a marker of time, but a testament to the unwavering dedication and commitment of each member of this congregation.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible is God's instructions to Joshua in Joshua 1:8: "Do not let this book of law depart from your lips, be careful to do what it says, meditate on it day and night, and you will be prosperous and successful."

This anniversary is undoubtedly a celebration, but also a reminder that God has used this congregation in a powerful way and continues to do so.

I express my deepest gratitude to those who have contributed to the years of success of

Abilene Baptist Church. May God bless each and every one of them.

RECOGNIZING MARK McCLARTY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made in our community by one of my constituents, Mark McClarty, who has been a volunteer with the non-profit, People Helping People (PHP) since 2023. Mark stepped up to manage the organization's Weekend Blessings program which provides four meals per week-end to children facing food insecurity. The program also feeds these children throughout the summer. Careful coordination with the Hernando County School District and other organizations is required to make this initiative successful, and Mark works tirelessly to get the job done. Mark's background in finance and his people skills are so incredibly valuable. He continually finds innovative ways to lower the costs while increasing value of the food PHP purchases for the program. Under his leadership, the Weekend Blessings initiative has grown, as it now serves an additional 150 needy children each week. The efficiencies he has implemented for this initiative have also been replicated within PHP's senior feeding program. His positive attitude is infectious.

It is clear that Mr. McClarty has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.