

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YPSILANTI MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels on the occasion of their 50 years of service to the community. The care and service that they provide to older members of the Ypsilanti community is worthy of commendation.

Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels began at the suggestion of the Ypsilanti's Mayor's Council on Aging in 1973. This program began with 16 homebound neighbors receiving home-delivered meals, and has since expanded into a reliable and strong force in Washtenaw County. The organization now includes pet food delivery through a partnership with the Huron Valley Humane Society, home repairs, and a program that helps seniors live more safely while remaining in the comfort of their own homes. The level of care and dedication to recipients of this organization is shown as it offers vegetarian meals, produce delivery, as well as medically friendly and culturally sensitive options. Additionally, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels delivers all seven days of the week, ensuring that all senior clients get fresh meals each day.

The success of Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels would not be possible without the numerous partnerships they have. The support of these community organizations enables the program to run and deliver food to homes every day. The First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti was their first partner when the program started, their original home, and still plays a huge role in supporting them today. YMOW also works with staff and students from the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University to help with the initial intake process of community members and partners with Michigan Medicine's Patient Food and Nutrition Services to produce the meals. These partnerships also allow for YMOW's other services to the community, including the Pets Assisting the Lives of Seniors (P.A.L.S.) program that is run with the support of the Humane Society. All of these partnerships demonstrate how integrated the program is throughout the community and the extent of its aid throughout Southeastern Michigan.

Dedicated to serving older adults, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels has demonstrated its commitment to the community throughout these last five decades. By providing nutritious meals, social interaction with community members, and other services, this organization allows the homebound residents in Washtenaw County the opportunity to maintain independence and comfort by living in their own homes. Every member of a community deserves to feel safe and happy, and this organization ensures that some of our most vulnerable members are able to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. For the last half-century, the program has been diligently serving the older adults of the community when they need it most. We thank Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels and its team members for its service to the Sixth District and are excited to see how the program keeps serving the community.

### TRIBUTE TO LINDA MIGLIORE

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona's 29th Legislative District, I would like to recognize Linda Migliore. Linda Migliore is the Chairwoman of the Republican Legislative District 29 which spans the Cities of Surprise, El Mirage, Youngtown, Litchfield Park, and Goodyear. The district also includes a West Valley fixture, Luke Air Force Base, where the sound of freedom is often heard flying the skies of Arizona.

As Chairwoman, Linda has worked tirelessly to ensure citizens are educated and engaged in the civic process. Her efforts to ensure Republicans are elected in the Phoenix West Valley have been critical to the success of Legislative District 29 and beyond.

I am thankful for Linda's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the legislative district and to the State of Arizona.

### RECOGNIZING CHARLES KOMON

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Charles has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Charles, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Charles's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT BRETT GRAHAM

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brett Graham of Denison, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Brett has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Brett is a 5th generation native of Grayson County. He graduated from Baylor University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Business Administration specializing in marketing and real estate. In the following year, he began his career as a real estate appraiser with the Jack Poe Company in Dallas. In 1993, Brett stepped up to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of Graham International, a family-owned franchised truck dealership. Graham International has several locations in North Texas and Oklahoma, and since 1965 they have continued to provide quality services for commercial truck drivers in our community. Brett has concurrently served as the CEO of Graham Truck Centers since 2000.

Throughout his extensive career, Brett has been an active member of our community and advocate for a prosperous business environment. In the late 1990s, he joined the board of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce and worked with the Texas Association of Business in numerous leadership positions. For his outstanding work, the Baylor Institute for Family Business has recognized his company as the 2013 Texas Family Business of the Year. In 2016, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Brett to serve on the board of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for his expertise in the automobile industry. In his free time, he volunteers with the Texas Republican Party to help elect constitutional conservatives in local and state elections. I am proud to recognize Brett today for his important contributions to our community and support for strong family values.

It is an honor to bestow Brett with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

### RECOGNIZING MY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, JESSICA LARSEN, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. DEAN PHILLIPS**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Legislative Assistant, Jessica Larsen, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional

• 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.

District. Jessica has departed my office for a new opportunity serving as Legislative Aide in the Office of Sen. ELIZABETH WARREN, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

From her birthplace in Bellshill, Scotland to the basketball court at Minnetonka High School and on to the halls of the United States Congress, Jess has proven herself a force to be reckoned with. In the spirit of a Minnetonka Skipper, Jess set sail across the pond to attend Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. After graduating with First Class Honours, she returned stateside to serve her home district with compassion and dedication.

Jess joined the office as a Staff and Executive Assistant, imparting her infectious joy on every colleague and constituent that walked through the front door. Her intelligence, kindness, and Radical Hospitality touched everyone she met and inspired the staffers who would follow in her footsteps. It wasn't before long that Jess grew into a widely respected and highly competent Legislative Assistant whose passion for helping others made her a role model for the entire team. Constituents came into their conversations with Jess eager to meet a DC staffer with deep ties to the district. They consistently left blown away by her empathy and policy acumen for the most pressing issues facing our country and Minnesota's Third Congressional District.

Jess worked tirelessly to make U.S. Department of Agriculture programs more equitable for Black and Brown farmers, provide adult sized changing tables in airports to ease travel for people with disabilities, and preserve Minnesota's Boundary Waters as an oasis uninhibited by harmful mining practices. She is a fierce advocate who has an unparalleled ability to treat the issue at hand with the utmost importance. The office will not be the same without her insight, diligence, warm smile, and occasional sarcasm. We look forward to working for Jess some day in the not-too-distant future.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her expertise and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that this expertise will continue to serve the nation and the people of Massachusetts. I wish Jessica all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for two years of faithful service to this nation—and many more to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO GLEN SAYLER

### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the president of the Sun City Republican Club, Glen Sayler. Glen Sayler has distinguished himself by providing exceptional service to the residents of Sun City, Arizona.

As president, Glen has been an advocate for educating members on the civic engagement process and how to interact with elected officials. The efforts of Glen and the Sun City Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Glen's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely

appreciate his service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

#### RECOGNIZING MAGAIRA HOWARD

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Magaira has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Magaira, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Magaira's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT TOM WATT

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Tom Watt of Denison, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Tom currently serves as the chief law enforcement officer for Grayson County, and he has dedicated himself to serving and protecting our community.

Tom was born at Selfridge Air Force Base in Harrison Township, Michigan. He began his lengthy law enforcement career in 1979 as a Corrections Officer for the United States Army's 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. In 1981, Tom began serving as a civilian patrol officer for the Sherman Police Department. For his outstanding public service and excellence, he was selected to serve as Sherman's Chief of Police in 2004, a position he held for nearly nine years. Tom briefly retired in 2013, but was drawn back to public service when then-Sheriff Keith Gary asked him to become his Chief Deputy, which Tom gladly accepted. When Mr. Gary retired in 2016, Tom was appointed by the Grayson County Commissioner's Court to complete his term. He was later elected to serve as the duly elected Sheriff for Grayson County and will retire at the end of this year.

For his extensive efforts to protect and uplift our community, Tom has been recognized on several occasions. In 2019, Tom received the Community Champion Award from the Texoma Health Foundation for his leadership on the issue of mental health services. He also received the Dr. Don Rogers Award from the Texoma Behavioral Health Leadership Team. Tom currently serves on the board of the Texoma Regional Police Academy and the Texoma Law Enforcement Leadership Group. In his free time, he enjoys bowling, golfing,

and playing pinball. I am proud to recognize Tom today for making a positive impact on the world around us, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Tom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL A.C. ROPER, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN THREE-STAR GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and achievements of Lieutenant General A.C. Roper, the first African American three-star general in the U.S. Army Reserve, as he celebrates his retirement from the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant General Roper's exemplary service began after he was commissioned in 1983 as a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His military education is extensive, including Chemical Officer Basic and Advance Courses (Honor Graduate of both), Public Affairs Officers Course, Equal Opportunity Advisors Course (Commandant's Award), Inspector General Course, Combined Arms Staff Services School, Command and General Staff College (Commandant's List), the US Army War College, the Joint Senior Reserve Component Officer Course, the Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) Course, the National Defense University's CAPSTONE Course, the NORTHCOM Joint Task Force Commanders Course, and Harvard University's National & International Security Seminar. He earned a Master of Science from the University of Alabama and a Master in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College. He furthered his education at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy and the FBI National Executive Institute. He specialized in protecting critical infrastructure and served on the Executive Board of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

On May 14, 2021, Lieutenant General Roper broke a barrier within the armed services, becoming the first African American to become a three-star general in the U.S. Army Reserve, earning the rank of Lieutenant General.

Most recently, Lieutenant General A.C. Roper served as the Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command, and Vice Commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. As Deputy Commander, Lieutenant General Roper assisted the Combatant Commander in anticipating, preparing for, and responding to threats against North America and within Northern Command's assigned area of responsibility. Additionally, he provided oversight of the U.S. Northern Command's mission to provide Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

Throughout his decorated career, Lieutenant General Roper's reputation has always been one of purpose and passion. Prior to this current assignment, he commanded the 76th

Operational Response Command in Salt Lake City, UT, which was the USAR's all-hazard response command. He also served as Commanding General—80th Training Command (OPCON to TRADOC), Acting Deputy Commanding General—CBRN, 335th Signal Command, and Commander of the 415th CBRN Brigade, where he was dual-hatted as the Task Force Operations Commander, JTF-51, ARNORTH for the C2CRE-A homeland response mission. Lieutenant General Roper was deployed to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield and to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He also supported Joint Task Force Andrew relief operations in Southern Florida.

Lieutenant General Roper's other general officer level assignments include duties as Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Fort Bragg, NC, and Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, headquartered at the Pentagon, Washington, DC. In 2018, Roper traveled to France during the World War I Centennial Commemorations and walked the same battlefield as his grandfather, Cpl. Roper who served in the 366th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division, and was a significant inspiration for Lieutenant General Roper's career.

Lieutenant General Roper's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, and various other awards. He also served as a principal member of the Secretary of the Army's Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee and the Secretary of Defense's Reserve Forces Policy Board.

As a civilian, Lieutenant General Roper has over 33 years of law enforcement experience, serving as the Chief of Police of the Birmingham Police Department for a decade. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and on the Executive Board of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

On a personal note, I got to know the Lieutenant General in his civilian capacity as the Police Chief for the City of Birmingham Police Department, for over 10 years. Chief Roper, as he was called, is a disciplined and principled servant leader who impressed me with his firm yet compassionate leadership style that commanded the respect of his fellow officers and endeared him to the Birmingham community. While serving as Police Chief, he continued to serve his country as a U.S. Army reservist whose deployment assignments were in Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan. Lieutenant General Roper is an honorable man, guided by his abiding faith in God and love of country shown in both his military and law enforcement service. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we honor Lieutenant General Roper for his 33 years in law enforcement and his 41 years of military service. We commend him for his dedication, commitment, and strong belief in God, family, and country. I thank him.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary career and exemplary service of Lieutenant General A.C. Roper for his contributions to our Nation and the enduring legacy of his service.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAROL AYOTTE

### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona's 27th Legislative District, it is my honor to recognize Carol Ayotte. Carol Ayotte is the Chairwoman of the Republican Legislative District 27 which spans portions of the Cities of Glendale, Peoria, and Phoenix with a population of over 240,000.

As Chairwoman, Carol has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. Her efforts to work collaboratively with other leaders in the Phoenix West Valley have been instrumental to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

As a resident of Legislative District 27, I am thankful for her leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the legislative district and to the State of Arizona.

#### RECOGNIZING JAYCE MAERZ

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Jayce has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Jayce, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jayce's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT GEORGE WOODROOF

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Woodroof of Gunter, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. George has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

George was born in Paris, Texas. From a young age, he knew he wanted to serve and defend our nation. In 1969, George enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he spent the next three decades as a Marine Squadron Commander and pilot. He primarily operated CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters and was stationed in various locations across the

world, including Europe, the Middle East, and on aircraft carriers. While at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan, George met the love of his life, Barbara, and they married in 1980. As he had numerous flight hours and aviation experience under his belt, he began a very successful career as a pilot for American Airlines starting in 1986. George retired from the Marine Corps as a Colonel in 1999.

When they returned to Texas, George served as a board member for the Marilee Special Utility District and the Grayson County Planning Board. Additionally, he served as the Chair of the Grayson County College Foundation Board's Finance Committee for six years, where he helped support prospective students in our community with scholarships. Since 2018, George has been a Precinct Chair for the Grayson County Republican Party and helps local candidates fundraise and win elections. In his free time, he enjoys ranching, traveling, and taking care of his dog. George and Barbara are longtime contributors to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sherman, and the Grayson County College Foundation. I am proud to recognize George's important contributions to our community and his continued efforts to support those in need.

It is an honor to bestow George with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

#### HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT DALE HAVER

### HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of First Lieutenant Dale Haver in the Vietnam War.

Lt. Haver grew up in Whitehouse Station, NJ, now part of New Jersey's Seventh District. An accomplished student athlete, he was a leader on many sports teams at Hunterdon Central High School. After leaving New Jersey, Lt. Haver attended the University of Montana and became a firefighter. He joined the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula, Montana, as a smokejumper, parachuting into remote woodlands to fight wildfires. He routinely undertook the most challenging assignments, impressing all with his dedication and talent.

In 1968, Lt. Haver was deployed to Vietnam with the U.S. Army as a helicopter pilot, where he flew more than 25 missions over hostile territory in under six months of service. On April 9, 1969, Lt. Haver was piloting a rescue operation when his aircraft experienced a technical malfunction and crash-landed. Lt. Haver stayed with the wreckage, assisting his flight crew in escaping despite having suffered 3rd degree burns. Sadly, he passed away from his injuries two days later. For his remarkable courage and selflessness, Lt. Haver was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, and the Air Medal, to add to the Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Ribbon he had earned prior to his death.

Furthermore, he was awarded the National Order of Vietnam, Fifth Class by the Republic of Vietnam.

Lt. Haver's service for his country both domestically and abroad deserves strong commendation. I am proud to recognize his bravery and patriotism today and am glad that his legacy lives on in the Seventh District of New Jersey.

#### RECOGNIZING CADENCE DONOVAN

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Cadence has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Cadence, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Cadence's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT DEBBIE FLANDERS

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Debbie Flanders of Sherman, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Debbie has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Debbie was born in Mountain City, Tennessee and graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness. During her time in college she was active in the Young Republicans Club and worked for former US Senator Lamar Alexander's 1978 gubernatorial campaign. After graduation, Debbie married the love of her life, John, and they moved to Texas five years later. Together, they raised three wonderful children. Debbie began her career as a caseworker at Texoma Community Center and an editor for the Pottsboro Press, a local conservative newsletter.

In the mid-1990s, Debbie began working closely with the Grayson County Republican Party, and she served as Precinct Chair and Secretary for over a decade. She was one of the founding members of the Grayson County Young Republicans, where she helped educate and empower students in our community to be active in the political process. For her outstanding work and efforts, the GCRP has presented Debbie with the prestigious Eisenhower Award and the Chairman's Award. In 2014, she received the Texas Federation of Republican Women Tribute to Women Award. Currently, Debbie serves as the Vice President and Campaign Chair for the Grayson County Republican Women PAC. She is a de-

voted woman of faith and regularly attends the Central Christian Church in Sherman, where she was the Children's Church Director and a volunteer at the food pantry. I am proud to recognize Debbie today for her important contributions to our community.

It is an honor to bestow Debbie with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH AN- NIVERSARY

#### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Ridgeland in Madison County, Mississippi, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary in 2024.

The land that is now Ridgeland was once only a footpath along the Natchez Trace for the local Choctaw Indians. Over time, the footpath became a common road for travel and commerce. Turner Brashears, an early settler in Mississippi, opened a stand nearby in 1804 after seeing the potential of the area for business. In 1811, Silas Dinsmor opened the Choctaw Agency in the area. Though small and seemingly insignificant at the time, in 1812 Andrew Jackson camped with his army at Brashears Stand returning from New Orleans.

By 1829, Madison County, named after former President James Madison, was established in Mississippi. The growth in the area was recognized and in 1832 William J. Austin was granted land along the Natchez Trace. In 1853, Austin sold the land to James Burroughs from North Carolina. By 1865, the area was called Yellowley's Crossing by the Illinois Central Railroad, which operated there. This changed the old footpath forever.

The local community began to swell with people and the locals started calling the area Jessamine. The old Brashears Stand was destroyed by a fire in 1896 and Yellowley sold his land to the Highland Colony Company owned by Gorton W. Nichols and Edwards M. Treake. In 1899, the village was incorporated as Ridgeland.

Since its incorporation in 1899, Ridgeland has been a center for trade and travel and offers a vibrant life for its residents. Through many decades of forward-thinking leadership, including that of longtime mayor Gene McGee, Ridgeland has continued to prosper. In 1999, Ridgeland celebrated 100 years and here, in 2024, I am proud to offer these remarks in honor of her 125th anniversary.

Ridgeland has done much through the years to contribute to the betterment of society and I'm proud to represent Ridgeland, Mississippi, in the United States Congress.

#### HONORING THE CARYVILLE CARES PROJECT

#### HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caryville Cares Playground project in Caryville, TN, and recognize the community that has supported it.

In Campbell County, TN, roughly one in five people under the age of 65 years old have a disability according to the US Census, nearly double the national average, yet no playground in the community was considered inclusive for those with different needs and abilities.

The Caryville Cares Playground is an inclusive playground, where children of all different ability levels would have the opportunity to play together. Inclusive playgrounds like this are the start of healthy friendships that can last a lifetime and are places where children of all levels of ability are able to experience the joy of outdoor play.

The playground was designed with seven main principles in mind to be fair; be free; be included; be smart; be independent; be safe; be active; and be comfortable. The seven principles guided every step of the planning, construction, and implementation for this project.

The groups that initiated this project spearheaded fundraising, applied for grants, and solicited donations and support from the Caryville community. Their efforts included dinners, auctions, roadblocks, and even a local "Dancing with the Stars"-styled event. They successfully raised more than a half million dollars in both cash and in-kind donations.

After two years of hard work by the team, the playground was fully funded. On April 26, 2024, the gates to the Caryville Cares Playground opened for the first time. Every child in the community will finally have a place to play, thanks to the dedication of the Caryville Cares organizing committee and the incredible generosity of the local community.

It is my pleasure to recognize the community team that took on this important and worthwhile undertaking. The group includes Mr. Brandon Johnson, who served as its president, along with fellow members Mrs. Cheyenne Allen, Mrs. Tayler Franke, Mr. Landyn Ford, Mr. Joe Goins, Mr. Blake Gray, Mrs. Tara Lee Gillespie, Mrs. Kristin Long, Mr. Joshua McDowell, Mrs. Autumn Longmire, Mrs. Ali Dower Miracle, Mrs. Ashley Whited, Mrs. Brandy Nelson, Mr. Micah Nelson, Mrs. Sara Padgett, Mr. Patrick Pebley, Mrs. Kaylee Queener, Mrs. Raewyn Snodderly, Mrs. Elizabeth Tamer, Mrs. Emily Tamer, Mrs. Katy Winter Vincent, Mrs. Ally Winter, Mr. Kevin Winter, and Mrs. Saarah Young.

#### RECOGNIZING VIOLET KEHL

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Violet has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Violet, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Violet's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT LOU HOLTZ

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Lou Holtz of Orlando, Florida, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Coach Holtz is a legendary American who is regarded as one of the greatest football coaches of all time.

Coach Holtz is a native of East Liverpool, Ohio. He attended Kent State University and was a member of Kent State's football team and ROTC program. After graduating in 1959 with a history degree, Coach Holtz commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer in the U.S. Army Reserves. In the following year, he began his extensive coaching career while attending graduate school at the University of Iowa. Over the next several decades, Coach Holtz served as the head football coach for numerous colleges, universities, and professional teams nationwide. Most notably, he led Notre Dame's Fighting Irish to record-breaking, back-to-back victories in the 1988 national championship.

For his outstanding accomplishments, Coach Holtz was granted the Golden Plate Award by the American Academy of Achievement and received honorary doctorates from many academic institutions. He was also inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame, and the Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame.

After he retired from football, Coach Holtz became a sports broadcaster and established the Holtz Charitable Foundation to provide scholarships for students to attend trade schools. Moreover, he published several books to inspire young adults to develop winning game plans for life. In 2020, President Donald Trump awarded Coach Holtz the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his important contributions to our nation. I am proud to recognize Coach Holtz's spectacular legacy. The lasting impact he made on our community will be felt for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Coach Holtz with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation. May God Bless him.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CECILY HAHN FOR THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

### HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Cecily Hahn for three and a half years of invaluable service to my office and my constituents in Washington's 1st Congressional District. Cecily joined my office in January 2021, and as a former resident of the 1st Congressional District, she brought a much-needed and valuable perspective on the issues that matter the most to our communities. She worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support and address the unique challenges experienced by the exclave community of Point Roberts and other communities along our Northern Border. Through her persistence, the House passed legislation to add Mount Vernon as a federal court location in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. She has also been a fearless champion of advancing strong privacy legislation, and has elevated the profile of the XR Caucus within the House of Representatives. In addition to her advancement of my legislative priorities, Cecily has served as a wonderful mentor to others on my staff and helped them grow and advance in their own careers.

Cecily brought a great work ethic, strong Washingtonian spirit, and exemplary legal knowledge to the role. Over her tenure, we have learned about all things Taylor Swift and F1, and her impact on our office will be long lived. She built lasting relationships with my team and those who had the pleasure of getting to know her. Cecily has been an amazing staffer and a wonderful friend to all in the office, and we will all sorely miss her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cecily Hahn and wishing her the best in all of her future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING MADISON GRAY-CONKLING

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Madison Gray-Conkling for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Madison has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Madison, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Madison's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Madison Gray-Conkling on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT KATHY PUCKETT

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kathryn "Kathy" Puckett of Howe, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Kathy has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Shortly after graduating from high school in 1970, Kathy married her high school sweetheart, Logan. Together, they moved to Tehran, Iran, where Logan worked in the oil-field industry and Kathy taught conversational English at the University of Tehran. After a decade of traveling and living in fifteen countries around the world, Kathy and Logan returned home to start a family.

Since then, she has been actively involved with numerous community and political organizations in North Texas. Kathy helped organize food drives, provide voter registration assistance, and elect local candidates. She also taught financial literacy courses and volunteered with her church's youth department to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness.

Kathy previously served as the President of the Grayson County Republican Women and is the current District Director for the Texas Federation of Republican Women in SD30. In her free time, she enjoys quilting, yoga, traveling, and spending time with her grandchildren. I am proud to recognize Kathy today for her outstanding efforts to support those in need. I'm confident she will continue to make a positive impact in our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Kathy with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR BARRY BARISH FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE

### HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Barry Barish of University of California, Riverside, for receiving the National Medal of Science from President Biden in honor of his great achievements and invaluable contributions to the field of particle physics.

The citation for his award reads "For exemplary service to science, including groundbreaking research on sub-atomic particles. His leadership of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory led to the first detection of gravitational waves from merging black holes, confirming a key part of Einstein's Theory of Relativity. He has broadened our understanding of the universe and our Nation's sense of wonder and discovery."

In addition, Professor Barish was awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in physics in recognition of his leadership in the discovery of gravitational waves—first predicted by Einstein a

century earlier. Professor Barish is currently faculty at University of California, Riverside, in the Department of Physics and Astronomy where he was instrumental in recruiting and developing a new group of faculty focused on the broad field of experimental cosmology.

These young faculty are conducting cutting edge research exploring the universe using gravitational waves, searching for dark matter, using the smallest known particles to probe the origin of matter in the universe, and studying the earliest light leftover from the big bang to understand how the universe formed. This group now plays leading roles in international experiments exploring this groundbreaking science and is developing novel instruments that will lead the way for future scientific endeavors for years to come. This research group is also training the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The skills that students learn will prepare them to be future leaders in research and industry alike, becoming experts in emerging technologies like semiconductors and quantum sensors, and they will be prepared to grow these vital industries.

I commend Professor Barish for his remarkable achievements in science and teaching and his work training the next generation of scientists at University of California, Riverside. May their work continue to illuminate the mysteries of the universe and inspire us all to reach for the stars.

#### RECOGNIZING TENLY FENTON

##### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tenly Fenton for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Tenly has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Tenly, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Tenly's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### CELEBRATING FOUNDER'S DAY OF THE RUSH CREEK YACHT CLUB

##### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the founding of the Rush Creek Yacht Club of Heath, Texas.

In 1969, a group of visionary entrepreneurs from White Rock Lake conceived the idea of forming a yacht club to bring together sailing enthusiasts across North Texas. This club would be located on the shores of the newly built Lake Ray Hubbard and classified as a

nonprofit organization owned by its members. After a steering committee was formed, the board members obtained state approval, including tax-exempt and nonprofit status. The members initially settled on naming it the "Dallas Olympic Yacht Club", but it was changed to the "Rush Creek Yacht Club" shortly after.

Since its establishment, the Rush Creek Yacht Club has devoted itself to building a family-oriented boating club to serve sailors of all ages and experience levels. On top of providing year-round recreation, the Rush Creek Yacht Club continues to stress the importance of family values. This Founder's Day, I am proud to recognize the Rush Creek Yacht Club's past, present, and future.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of this historic occasion. I wish them continued success and fair winds for many years to come.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF DR. TIM RYAN

##### HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I celebrate today the distinguished career of Dr. Tim Ryan, who will soon graduate from his role as President to Chancellor of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). As he embarks on his retirement, Dr. Ryan will continue to serve as an advisor to the institution.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dr. Ryan's journey is one of passion, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. His early affiliation with the CIA as a student set the stage for what would become a lifelong relationship with the institution.

For over four decades, Dr. Ryan's visionary leadership has spurred remarkable growth and international acclaim for the CIA. He held various executive roles before his historic appointment as President in 2001, becoming the first alumnus to lead the college. Under his presidency, the CIA has become a global educational powerhouse. Today, the CIA boasts a diverse array of associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs across campuses in New York, California, Texas, and Singapore. These institutions have become epicenters of gastronomic education, nurturing future chefs, sommeliers, and hospitality leaders. Dr. Ryan's vision has firmly established the CIA as the preeminent culinary college in the world.

Dr. Ryan's influence extends beyond the boundaries of education. His role in the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Culinary Partnership underscores his commitment to leveraging food as a means of fostering international relations and cultural exchange. His accolades, including the Presidential Medal from the World Association of Chefs Societies and induction into the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America, demonstrate his impact on the global food landscape.

Commended as one of the 50 Greatest Pittsburghers of All Time, Dr. Ryan's philosophy is simple yet profound: "100 percent of the world eats food". This universal truth drives his mission to educate and inspire the

next generation of culinary leaders, ensuring that the CIA remains at the forefront of the world's gastronomic scene.

Dr. Ryan's contributions to the CIA, the food industry, and the broader community in the Hudson Valley of New York are immeasurable. His contributions have not only shaped the CIA but have also enriched the world's culinary heritage, making him a true pioneer of American cuisine.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Dr. Ryan personally for many years. As an educator and culinarian, he has impacted over 30,000 individuals who have graduated from the CIA during his tenure as the president of the Culinary Institute of America. Dr. Ryan has an unwavering commitment to transforming the food industry and bettering the nation and world through education, practice, and scholarship. It is with great admiration and respect that we commend Dr. Tim Ryan for his extraordinary achievements and enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the distinguished career and lasting impact of Dr. Tim Ryan, a leader who has left an indelible mark on American gastronomy, education, and the culinary arts. His legacy is not only reflected in the culinary professionals he has mentored, but also in his embodiment of excellence.

#### TRIBUTE TO LORI BANGO

##### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona's 28th Legislative District, I would like to recognize Lori Bango. Lori Bango is the Chairwoman of the Republican Legislative District 28 which spans portions of Peoria and North Phoenix and includes the unincorporated areas of Sun City and Sun City West, representing a population of over 228,000.

As Chairwoman, Lori has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. Her efforts to ensure Republicans are elected in the Phoenix West Valley have been instrumental to the success of Legislative District 28 and beyond.

I am thankful for Lori's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the legislative district and to the State of Arizona.

#### RECOGNIZING QUINN JOHNSON

##### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Quinn Johnson for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Quinn has overcome many challenges along their journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Quinn, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This

award is a testament to Quinn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT HOWARD HANSON

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Howard Hanson of Granger, Indiana, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award for a lifetime of service to our Nation.

Col. Hanson was born on June 28, 1940, in Slayton, Minnesota. He spent most of his childhood on a family farm and had a desire to serve and defend his country. In 1963, Col. Hanson commissioned into the United States Air Force and served as a pilot with the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron and the 522nd Tactical Fighter Squadron. During the Vietnam War, he flew 315 combat missions in the F-100 Super Sabre fighter jet. Prior to retiring from military service in 1992, Col. Hanson served as the Commander of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 225 at the University of Notre Dame. He remained at Notre Dame until 2005, where he served as the Assistant Vice President and Director of the Office of Research.

Currently, Col. Hanson works part-time at the Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame. He is married to his wife Nancy, and together, they raised two children and have many more grandchildren. In his free time, Col. Hanson participates in community service projects for Kiwanis International and volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate to support children in need. He also enjoys playing golf and walking his German Shorthair puppy. I am proud to recognize Col. Hanson today for his important contributions to our community.

It is an honor to bestow Col. Hanson with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LAWRENCE "LARRY" AMENDOLA

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I use today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of an outstanding member of the New Haven community and my dear friend, Lawrence Amendola. Larry was an extraordinary man who dedicated a lifetime of service to the City of New Haven, particularly the Wooster Square neighborhood we both called home.

Born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, Larry enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from high school. Stationed in Ger-

many for the majority of his military service, he was honorably discharged before returning to New Haven to begin his career. Larry spent his professional life as a civil servant, beginning his City employment at the CETA Program and later working for the Department of Parks and Recreation, retiring at the age of 75.

Larry also served as President of AFSCME Local 3144 Management Union, one of City's largest unions, for over 20 years. It was in this role that he had the most impact—where he fought on behalf of hundreds of city employees, negotiating contracts that ensured good wages and health benefits as well as pension and retirement security. Larry understood better than most the benefits of the union and he worked tirelessly on behalf of those he represented.

While Larry dedicated his professional life to the City of New Haven, he also dedicated much of his time and energy to the community as well. He served as Vice-President and President of the Saint Andrew the Apostle Society—one of the Italian American social organizations whose goal is to preserve and celebrate our shared Italian heritage. Larry served in these roles for more than 30 years and volunteered countless hours at the Society's annual festival. His work in the community was recognized when he was awarded the Steve Vuolo Award.

I am fortunate in that I knew Larry for most of my life. He was a close family friend, having worked with both of my parents over the years. I had the opportunity to work with Larry early in my career. I was working with the Community Action Institute—at the Skill Center on Cedar Street—and Larry and I partnered to organize additional city employees. He was not only a friend, but a great mentor. I learned a lot from him and was always grateful for his support and friendship throughout my own career.

Lawrence "Larry" Amendola was a remarkable member of our community. His passing leaves a hole in our community that will not easily be filled. I extend my deepest sympathies to his companion of nearly 20 years, Flora D'Elsi, as well as his many cherished nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews. His passion, advocacy, and commitment to service will long serve as an example to which we should all strive.

HONORING JAMES COLLINS TAYLOR, VETERAN OF THE GHOST ARMY, FOR RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

**HON. WARREN DAVIDSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2022, the President signed into law S. 1404, which awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, known as the Ghost Army. The Congressional Gold Medal is the oldest and highest civilian award in the United States. I rise today to honor Sergeant Major James Collins Taylor II for his contributions, sacrifices, and patriotism while serving in the Ghost Army during World War II. Due to the unit's sworn

secrecy, their service and contributions went unnoticed for far too long.

Sergeant Major James Collins Taylor II was born in Mission, Texas, on November 13th, 1915. Mr. Taylor joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. After the outbreak of World War II, he was assigned to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops. This specialized unit comprised only 1,100 brave Americans and often served near the front lines.

Mr. Taylor helped conduct numerous deceptive campaigns with the Ghost Army throughout Europe. During his service, he received a Certificate of Merit and was promoted to Sergeant Major of the Army—the highest rank possible for an enlisted soldier. While the Ghost Army's work was secret, its impact was substantial. The Ghost Army performed 22 "deception missions" across the front lines of France, Belgium, and Germany. By simulating the movement of 30,000 service members, the Ghost Army fooled German forces and aided General Patton at several critical junctures in World War II.

It is my honor to recognize the service Sergeant Major James C. Taylor and the Ghost Army. Their dedication and service saved thousands of American lives. Although the Congressional Gold Medal reaches Mr. Taylor posthumously, he is survived by a grateful family and country.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPHINE KING

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Josephine has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Josephine, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Josephine's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDDIE BROWN

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eddie Brown of Sherman, Texas for a lifetime of outstanding service to our community. Mr. Brown served as the President and CEO of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce until his retirement on March 15, 2024.

A native of Dallas, Mr. Brown attended East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. After graduation, he began his lengthy career with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. In



1986, Mr. Brown moved to Sherman with his family to become Cola-Cola's Sales Center Manager, a position he held for over 24 years. During this time, Mr. Brown's longtime support of the Sherman business community, as well as his many years of community involvement, did not go unnoticed. After he briefly retired in 2010, he was selected the following year by members of the Sherman Chamber to serve as its Interim President. In 2012, Mr. Brown became its President and Chief Executive Officer. Through various initiatives and visionary leadership, he laid the foundation for the Sherman business community's tremendous growth and economic success.

During his 13-year career with the Sherman Chamber, Mr. Brown served on the board of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives to advocate for the business community and unite business leaders across North Texas. He was also a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Sherman and the Sherman ISD Education Foundation. Moreover, Mr. Brown led efforts to connect Grayson College and the Texas Association of Business to ensure it received newly enacted education funding. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, traveling, and the outdoors. I am proud of the work Mr. Brown has accomplished for our business and education community.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor Mr. Brown's lifetime of service to the people of North Texas. May God Bless him.

HONORING MR. ANTHONY  
DEWAYNE BAKER, SR.'S LIFE  
AND LEGACY

### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Mr. Anthony DeWayne Baker, Sr.—a pillar of our Dallas community.

Mr. Baker was a graduate of David W. Carter High School in Dallas, Texas before rising through the ranks of Airbus helicopters. Anthony then went back to school, graduating from Dallas Baptist University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business in 2005. Anthony's first job was employment at Walls Services delivering sheet rock and in 1991 his career in the aerospace industry began when he landed a job working in the Bond shop at Vought Aircraft, formerly known as LTV. However, after 3 years with his newfound skills he accepted a temporary position as a blade repairman at American Eurocopter (Airbus), and due to his hard work and determined mindset he was later offered a permanent position. Mr. Baker eventually capped off his illustrious career as Vice President for Customer Support at Airbus Helicopters, the first African-American to hold the position.

Throughout his lifetime he overcame many barriers both personally and professionally, while always looking for ways to help others. He was a man of faith who proudly served our community for many years in his capacity as a Deacon, a member of the Cedar Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade; he was the current President of Summit at Lake Ridge HOA; he served on the UTA Engineering Board of Advisors; a

member of the Grand Prairie United Charities Board of Directors, and was involved in countless other charitable endeavors.

My thoughts and prayers are with all those who knew and loved Anthony, particularly his wife, Stacie, and his two children, Anthony DeWayne Baker, Jr. and Avery Alexander Baker. May his memory last forever.

### THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REVITALIZATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2024

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 Technical Corrections Act of 2024, which would address several retirement issues for current and former District of Columbia employees that resulted from the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Revitalization Act). The Revitalization Act, among other things, transferred several categories of employees who were in the D.C. retirement system to the federal retirement system and the federal government took over paying for the pension benefits earned by teachers, police officers, firefighters, and judges before 1997.

The Revitalization Act transferred several categories of employees, primarily related to D.C.'s criminal justice system, who participated in D.C.'s defined contribution plan from 1987 to 1997 to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). However, these employees' service from 1987 to 1997 was not counted for purposes of creditable service or annuity amount in FERS. In 2009, Congress passed legislation counting this service for creditable service, but not annuity amount. This bill would allow these employees to buy into the FERS annuity amount for 1987 to 1997 by paying 1.3 percent of their base pay plus interest, essentially the employee contribution for this time, which would give them the full retirement benefit to which they should be entitled.

Second, this bill would address two benefit issues for employees in the teachers, police officers, and firefighters pension plans, whose pre-1997 benefits are funded by the federal government. In 2018, D.C. enacted a law to provide domestic partner benefits for the police and firefighters pension plan, which mirrored a law already enacted for teachers. However, these domestic partner benefits apply only to service accrued after 1997, since the federal government funds pre-1997 benefits. This bill would make the domestic partner benefits available for pre-1997 benefits, too.

Finally, in 2012, D.C. enacted the Equity in Survivor Benefits Amendment Act, which reduced from age 60 to 55 the age after which a surviving spouse may remarry without losing survivor benefits for those in the teachers, police, and firefighters pension plans. However, these survivor benefits apply only to service accrued after 1997, since the federal government funds pre-1997 benefits. This bill would bring those pre-1997 benefits in line with both

the post-1997 benefits and the retirement benefits for federal employees in the Civil Service Retirement System or FERS and make an analogous change for D.C. judges, whose retirement benefits are funded by the federal government. In general, for federal retirees, 55 is the age after which a surviving spouse may remarry without losing survivor benefits.

This bill is an important step to assist these workers in getting the retirement benefits they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### RECOGNIZING PASTOR GEORGE W. WADDLES, JR., FOR HIS DECADE OF SERVICE

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor George W. Waddles, Jr., on the occasion of his 10 years of service to the Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti, Michigan. His significant service to his congregation and community is worthy of commendation.

Pastor Waddles received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Truman State University, a Master of Theology with a concentration in Pastoral Leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Master of Educational Administration from Texas A&M. In 1984, he was licensed to preach at the Ninth Street Baptist Church in Lawrence, Kansas and was also ordained at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church on December 1, 1995. After serving Sunset Missionary Baptist Church of Texarkana in Texas for over ten years, Pastor Waddles began his service as Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in March 2014. Under his leadership, the Second Baptist Church has become a pillar of Ypsilanti, and continues its important mission of serving the community.

Pastor Waddles has led by example and embodies the mission of the church: Connection, Commitment, and Community. During his decade of service, Pastor Waddles has been deeply involved with ministry teams to better serve his community, and the church continues to make a positive impact by promoting the Making Strides Cancer Walk, participating in the Ypsilanti 4th of July Parade, and collecting backpacks and school supplies to help students. Pastor Waddles has also been a lecturer and instructor in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the Wolverine State Convention and Huron Valley District Association. He has served as Dean, and currently is the President of the Huron Valley District Congress of Christian Education. Across all these roles, Pastor Waddle has remained committed to serving his community and uplifting all those within it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pastor Waddles for his decade of public service in Ypsilanti. His commitment to his faith, community, and mission is truly inspiring. I join Pastor Waddle's family, friends, and congregation in extending my best wishes to him during this time, and I am sure he will continue to serve his community far into the future.



## RECOGNIZING JORDYN GOINS

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

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

Jordyn has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Jordyn, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jordyn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING FELLOW MISSISSIPPIAN AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON FOUNDATION—DANIEL P. JORDAN

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mississippi native Dr. Daniel P. Jordan. Dr. Jordan served as the executive director and the President of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in Charlottesville overseeing the historical process and interest of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

As a native Mississippian, he was known for his "Magnolia Alerts" which would alert him to any vehicle with a Mississippi license plate. David would personally go to the visitor's center and welcome his fellow Mississippians to Monticello.

He was known as "the most consequential president on the Mountaintop since Jefferson himself." He worked hard to raise money for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and to expand the research capabilities at Monticello. David made the history of Jefferson accessible to everyday Americans through expanding Monticello's programing and growing their audience.

Dr. David Jordan was a frequent visitor to the Neshoba County Fair in Mississippi, even during his long tenure in Virginia. I'm thankful for Dr. Jordan's dedication to the scholarship of history, the years of research into Jefferson's life, and his unwavering commitment to his Mississippi roots.

I will end with some of David's words about President Jefferson. "We have 200 people trying to keep up with one man—one dead man, and we will never catch him." If anyone got close to catching Jefferson, it was Dr. Daniel Jordan.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT BARBARA WOODROOF

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Barbara Woodroof of Gunter, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Barbara has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

A native of Massachusetts, Barbara lived in the Bay State until 1978. She received a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Duke University. After graduation, Barbara taught science in Massachusetts, Texas, and Okinawa, Japan for many years. She met her wonderful husband George while teaching at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, and they married in 1980. Afterwards, they moved to Texas, where Barbara served as the Director of Religious Education at St. Michaels' Catholic Church in McKinney and the Holy Family Catholic Church in Van Alstyne. In this capacity, she taught confirmation class and worked as a Safe Environment Officer.

In 1997, Barbara became the Precinct Chair of the Grayson County Republican Party after working as an election judge and clerk. She was elected as the County Chair in 2017 and oversaw Grayson County's election procedures and operations for five years. Additionally, Barbara served on the Grayson County College Foundation Board and helped raise money to provide students in our community with scholarships. For her outstanding work and efforts, the GCRP has presented Barbara with the Eisenhower Award and the Chairman's Award. Currently, she volunteers for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Michaels and helps fundraise and campaign for local candidates. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, scrapbooking, and traveling. I am proud of the work Barbara has accomplished, and I am sure she will continue to make a positive impact on our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Barbara with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for their dedication to the principles of sisterhood, academic excellence, and public service. For over 116 years, AKA has been a beacon of empowerment for women and a force for positive change in our communities.

I would like to acknowledge the Central Director Kiahna Davis, State Social Action & Connection Chair Sherri Hale, my friend Erica Austin, the Illinois State Co-Coordinator, and Illinois General Assembly Liaison Erika Weaver.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has exemplified leadership and a commitment to uplifting young women from across the country. The sorority's dedication to academic excellence, social justice, and community service has served as an inspiration to countless people across the country.

I want to sincerely thank members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc for their enduring contributions to society. I also want to wish them the best as they visit the Illinois State Capitol, located in Springfield, for their annual day of advocacy. I look forward to seeing what they are able to accomplish in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commend and honor the outstanding work of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, an organization that has long been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for social justice in our communities. Since its inception, Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. has stood firmly at the forefront of the fight for fairness and equity, tirelessly advocating for the rights and well-being of all people.

I also want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Alpha Phi Alpha, particularly Midwestern Regional Vice President Frank Stacy Jr., Illinois State Director Dr. Leonard McKinnis II, and Michael Gaines and Robert Dixon, the Directors of Illinois Day at the Capitol. Their commitment to community empowerment and activism serves as an inspiration to us all.

Together, these individuals and organizations embody the spirit of service and selflessness, working tirelessly to provide communities with the tools, knowledge, and support they need to amplify their voices and effect positive change. They remind us that true empowerment begins with collective action and a commitment to social justice. I wish them all the best as they visit the Illinois State Capitol, located in my district, for their annual advocacy day.

HONORING WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY 2024

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 29, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Workers Memorial Day 2024 and the workers who have both lost their lives or risk their lives in unsafe working conditions on a daily basis. Too many people across the country, even today in 2024, are still forced to choose between a paycheck and having a safe and healthy workplace. This is unacceptable, and on Workers Memorial Day we remember all the workers who have been injured or have lost their lives on the job.

As a Member of Congress, I am dedicated to working to ensure that Congress and the

federal government both strengthen protections for workers in the workplace and defend the rights of workers to organize and create strong unions. For this reason, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the PRO Act and

will continue to work with my colleagues in Washington to push Congress to take up and pass pro-worker legislation.

As someone who got their start in the labor movement, I will never stop advocating on behalf of the working men and women who

serve as the backbone of this country. On this Workers Memorial Day, I am proud to take this opportunity to honor them and the sacrifices they have made over the years to fight for their right to be treated with dignity.