

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HEATHER STEWART

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Heather Stewart as the 2023–2024 Walton County Teacher of the Year. Since 2008, Mrs. Stewart has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Mrs. Stewart has performed her teaching duties exceptionally, while also striving to be an active and supportive member of her community.

Mrs. Stewart is revered by her Principal and colleagues for her incredible willingness to always lend a helping hand. From her fresh ideas and brilliant problem-solving skills, her school has been the benefactor of meaningful outcomes for all. Mrs. Stewart has been instrumental in securing classroom grants for STEM supplies and field trips and is helping to expand the agriculture program at her school. Her students learn significant real-world skills that better prepare them for their future.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of her classroom. Mrs. Stewart developed the first ever aerospace program at her school in conjunction with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Gaetz Aerospace Institute. She collaborates with educators from across the country to develop NGSS-aligned lessons as a Teacher Ambassador for Harvard LabXchange. Mrs. Stewart has displayed dedication to preparing the whole child for a life of success by showing students that their dreams are possible. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Mrs. Stewart as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mrs. Heather Stewart for her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

HONORING THE COLONY POLICE CHIEF DAVID COULON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary leadership and public

service of Chief David Coulon as he retires as Police Chief for The Colony Police Department (TCPD). Chief Coulon has served in this role at TCPD since September of 2014. After three decades of public service in law enforcement, with 22 of those years in command positions, Chief Coulon is concluding his time with TCPD.

Chief Coulon attended Baylor University, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1993 and later graduated from the University of North Texas with a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration in 2007. Chief Coulon also holds a Master Peace Officer Proficiency Certification and is a Texas Certified Public Manager. Additionally, he is an active member of the Texas Police Chiefs Association, North Texas Police Chief Association, and International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Chief Coulon joined TCPD from the Irving Police Department, where he had risen to Assistant Chief after beginning his law enforcement career as a patrol officer there in 1993. During his time at the helm of TCPD, Chief Coulon has worked to lead the agency in engagement, through both direct action and social engagement with the local community. He has cultivated collaboration with other local, county, state, and federal resources to ensure that the necessary close working relationships exist as the need arises to mitigate a threat or respond during a crisis. He has also endeavored to strengthen both the physical and mental capacity of his officers and staff by initiating a new Officer Fitness program and investing in policies, training, and program access to support mental health and wellness for personnel. He seeks to support his staff as they face increasing stressors resulting from the unprecedented growth experienced by The Colony, and the additional pressures arising from evolving social, political, and health events within the national law enforcement environment. Chief Coulon has continued to maintain the agency's standard of professionalism, seeing TCPD's recertification both in 2018 and again in 2022 as a "Recognized" police agency from the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

Through all the recent challenges faced by law enforcement, Chief Coulon has enriched the professionalism of The Colony Police Department and honorably carried the mantle of law enforcement leadership during one of the most difficult periods our country has witnessed. On behalf of The Colony and the residents of the 26th District of Texas, I join the City of The Colony in appreciation of the professionalism and steady leadership he has exhibited, caring both for his employees and the community served by The Colony Police Department. We are all indebted to him for his ongoing commitment to public safety and service, and I wish Chief Coulon and his family my sincerest best wishes as he departs to face the next career challenge.

REMEMBERING JACK KAIN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Mr. Kain was raised on a central Kentucky farm by loving parents. In 1947, while he was a college student at the University of Kentucky, he started selling cars. Mr. Kain earned a Bachelor of Business degree from the University of Kentucky. He enjoyed cheering on teams led by coaching legends Adolph Rupp and Bear Bryant, becoming a lifelong UK fan. He served our country in the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant during the Korean War. In 1953, he opened his first automobile dealership. He continued in the automotive industry, where he built a successful lifelong career. For many years, he and his family have operated Jack Kain Ford, where they have served over 70,000 customers since the 1980s. Mr. Kain was a leader in the automobile industry. He led the National Automobile Dealers Association in 2005 as Chairman. He represented Kentucky's franchised new-car dealers on NADA's board of directors for many years.

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING CASSIE HOLLOWAY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

• 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.

of my constituents, Cassie Holloway. Ms. Holloway has dedicated countless hours with several youth organizations, promoting the development of soft skills and teaching a variety of skills needed in the field of agriculture. She is passionate about her mentorship and dedicated to helping future generations realize their full potential.

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. Holloway has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD
FOR ROBIN PHILLIPS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Robin attended Baylor University and graduated in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in interior design. She initially began her career in the commercial design field before transitioning to the real estate industry. For over twenty years, Robin has continued to provide real estate services in North Texas and Oklahoma, and she previously served as the President of the Greater Texoma Association of Realtors. Moreover, Robin was a board member for Sherman ISD's Parent-Teacher Association for over 18 years, where she led efforts to help parents better connect with their children's educators.

While working in real estate, Robin continues to be actively involved in our community in many ways. She was appointed by the Governor to serve as the Red River Compact Commissioner and ensure that Texas receives an equitable share of resources from the Red River in conjunction with nearby states. Additionally, Robin is the current Precinct Chair for the Grayson County Republican Party and works closely with the Grayson College Foundation, the Grayson County Republican Women, the Sherman Historical Preservation Board, and many others. Along with her husband, Larry, she attends the Post Oak Fellowship Church in Sherman. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her family. I am proud to recognize Robin today for her fantastic work and extensive community involvement. I wish her continued success for many years to come.

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

RECOGNIZING CAMERON PRINCE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cameron Prince for earning the

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Cameron 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 Cameron, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Cameron'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 Cameron Prince on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING DR. NICHOLE AYRES

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a standout member of our South Sound community, Dr. Nichole Ayres, whose clinical practice has served thousands of veterans, servicemembers, and their families seeking mental health care and services in our region. As the Clinic Director at The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Valley Cities, Nichole leads a team of care professionals that has provided mental healthcare to over 6,000 military-connected clients since her clinic opened in 2019. As a military spouse of over 14 years, Nichole understands the importance of listening to—and learning from—our military and veteran community on how providers can best meet the community's mental health needs and build clinical approaches around military cultural competency. I, along with the thousands of South Sound residents her clinic has reached, am deeply grateful for her leadership and dedication to our district's active-duty and veteran population. As Mental Health Awareness Month approaches, I'm proud to shine a spotlight on her and her vital work.

HONORING JOHN CALIPARI

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize John Calipari. For fifteen years he served as the head coach for the University of Kentucky men's basketball team, the "Greatest Tradition in the History of College Basketball."

Born of humble beginnings at Moon Township, Pennsylvania, Calipari went on to serve in head coaching positions at the University of Massachusetts, the New Jersey Nets, and the University of Memphis. Calipari was hired in 2009 as head coach of the legendary University of Kentucky basketball program. He led Kentucky to four Final Fours; in 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015; with Kentucky winning the NCAA Championship in 2012. He amassed a record of 410 wins and 123 losses while at UK. Of these 410 victories, 22 came in the NCAA tournament—the most of any Kentucky head coach in the history of that storied program.

Calipari ranks ninth on the NCAA Division 1 all-time winningest coaches' list with 855 official wins. He was the Naismith Coach of the Year in 1996, 2008, and 2015. In 2015, he was named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He received the John R. Wooden Award "Legends of Coaching" honor in 2023. While at Kentucky, 47 of his players went on to play in the NBA. It is evident that Coach Cal, as he is known to most Kentuckians, cares deeply for his players and wants them to achieve their dreams.

In addition to his on-court accomplishments, Coach Cal has developed quite a legacy of charitable work. In 2010, his efforts raised \$1.3 million for Haitian earthquake victims with "Hoops for Haiti." His support for "Blessings in a Backpack" feeds hungry children all across Kentucky. He partnered with Samaritan's Feet to bring shoes to needy areas around the world. After devastating tornadoes hit Western Kentucky, Calipari and his players were there to help. Soon after, floods tore through Eastern Kentucky and again he was a strong presence to bring help to needy people who had lost everything. Coach Cal was known to help many people in small, unpublicized ways and he encouraged his players to give back to the community as well. In 2022, he received the Jefferson Award for Public Service in Sports by Multiplying Good in recognition of his many charitable contributions.

It is my honor to recognize my friend, Coach John Calipari, for his excellent coaching accomplishments, his contributions to the legacy of Kentucky basketball, and his generous spirit.

HONORING HIGHLAND VILLAGE
MAYOR DANIEL H. JAWORSKI

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel H. Jaworski as his term-limited years of service as Mayor and Member of the Highland Village City Council concludes. Mr. Jaworski was elected Mayor of Highland Village in May of 2022 after having served on the City Council for five years, becoming the first person raised in Highland Village to be elected to the Council and as Mayor. He won his seat on the Highland Village Council after having served on the Planning and Zoning Commission from 2014 to 2017, as well as serving on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and serving as Vice Chairman of the Highland Village Fire Department Service Level Task Force from 2015 to 2016.

Mayor Jaworski was raised in Highland Village and attended Marcus High School from 1985 to 1989 and was a member of the second graduating class at Marcus High School. In 2022, Mayor Jaworski was inducted into the Marcus High School Hall of Fame. After graduation, Mayor Jaworski enlisted in the United States Navy as a linguist and intelligence collection analyst and served from 1993 to 2000. By the end of his Naval career, he was responsible for all signals intelligence reporting in the Western Hemisphere. Since retiring from the Navy, Mayor Jaworski has enjoyed a 23-year career in corporate cyber security, currently managing the threat and vulnerability management team for Caterpillar.

Mayor Jaworski and his wife, Gretchen, have been residents of Highland Village since 2013 and are the proud parents of three children. Their oldest son followed in his father's footsteps and currently serves in the United States Navy and is stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. Their youngest son is a graduating senior at Marcus High School and their daughter is a seventh grader at Briarhill Middle School in Highland Village and plays softball in the Highland Village Baseball and Softball Association.

Beyond his work and involvement with the City of Highland Village, Mayor Jaworski and his wife are deeply engaged in their community, running Marauder 17, a non-profit organization the Jaworski's established to provide annual scholarships to student athletes and student trainers.

As Mayor Jaworski concludes his term, his public service has made an indelible mark on the community. Through his efforts as Mayor, as well as his service on Council and various municipal committees, Highland Village residents enjoy a better quality of life, benefiting from safer City roads and a more reliable and updated City water and sewer system; and during his tenure, the city upgraded the park system showcasing rebuilt playground areas, and a city trail system that has been improved with benches, chairs, and trash receptacles. As Highland Village turns 60, Mayor Jaworski is also leaving the successive Mayor and Council leaders with a completed and approved Comprehensive Plan, so that they are prepared to guide Highland Village and its residents for the next decade and beyond.

On behalf of the City of Highland Village and the residents of the 26th District of Texas, I appreciate his outstanding contributions to the quality of life we enjoy here in North Texas, and I wish Dan and the entire Jaworski family my best. I look forward to their continued engagement and the future contributions I am certain will follow.

RECOGNIZING MORRIS PORTON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions that have been made in our community by one of my constituents, Morris Porton. Mr. Porton is to be commended for a lifetime of service and remarkable achievement that has left a lasting imprint on the lives of countless individuals. In addition to his successful career as a local banker, Mr. Porton served as a Volunteer Deputy Sheriff, Pasco-Hernando State College Trustee, founder of Hernando Progress, Executive Director of the Hernando County Chamber of Commerce, and board member for countless non-profits throughout the community. The impact that he has made on the community through his charitable endeavors, through his work to cultivate a supportive environment in which small businesses can thrive and through facilitation of economic development opportunities is immeasurable. A true leader in every sense, Mr. Porton has established an unrivaled legacy of service, patriotism, philanthropy, and support of his fellow man.

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

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR ROBIN MCCOY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Robin McCoy of Howe, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Robin has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Robin is a graduate of Austin College, where she received a bachelor's degree in political science. She later earned a master's degree in gerontology from the University of North Texas. After several years of living in Scotland with her husband, she returned to the U.S. Initially, Robin worked for the Area Agency on Aging in the Texoma region before working closely with several Texas state senators to serve the constituents of Grayson County. She also taught finance and constitutional studies courses for many years at local schools.

Robin is also actively involved in numerous political and community organizations. She served as a Precinct Chair for the Grayson County Republican Party to help educate and mobilize individuals to be more involved in the political process. For her outstanding work, Robin was recognized as the GOP Volunteer of the Year for Grayson County and awarded the title of Howe Chamber Volunteer of the Year. She also received proclamations from the Texas House and Senate for her services to the community. In her free time, Robin enjoys skeet shooting, spending time with her grandchildren, and strengthening her faith in Christ. I commend Robin for her generous contributions to our community, and I am confident she will continue to make a positive impact on the world around us.

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

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH RAMIREZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Joseph 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 Joseph, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Joseph's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Excel Academy and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF REP. DONALD PAYNE, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., the people of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District have lost a great leader and devoted public servant, and we in Congress have lost a beloved colleague.

I join in sending my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Beatrice, and their three children: Donald III, Jack, and Yvonne during this difficult time.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Don was a fierce advocate for working families in New Jersey and all across the Nation. Drawing strength and determination from his own battle with Type 1 Diabetes, he worked tirelessly to make our communities healthier and stronger.

His work to increase access to critical cancer screenings remains an inspiration to me, and we are all indebted to him for his advocacy on that issue and many others. It was Don's father, the late Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., who first asked me to serve on the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Board of Directors.

Don worked tirelessly to keep his father's legacy alive, and I am so appreciative of his gracious support and commitment to the CBCF.

Don will be dearly missed here in the House of Representatives, and I join my colleagues in celebrating his extraordinary life and career. May his legacy live on the many lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING CAROLINE WATERHOUSE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions that have been made to our community by one of my constituents, Caroline Waterhouse. For the past 16 years, she has volunteered with the Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast Thrift & Gift Shoppe in Homosassa to help support the cost of grief services and wellness programs for over 5,000 people annually who are lonely and isolated. Caroline helps wherever she is needed, including working as: cashier, sorter, or price setter. She makes sure things are "done right" and that everything is fun for the customers and other members of her team. Caroline assists with the monthly movies to help others who are lonely. She loves people. Caroline is known as the "Wednesday Warrior" with a customer following who comes in just to see her each week. In January of 2024, Caroline celebrated her 96th birthday with her Thrift Shoppe Team. She is an avid crocheter, loves to work puzzles, sings in her church choir and spends time with her best friend "Buddie," a Lhasa Apso poodle mix that jumped in her car when she went to the Animal Shelter.

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

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD
FOR JUSTIN MCCAREINS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Justin McCareins of Whitewright, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Justin is a former professional athlete and public servant who has dedicated himself to serving and protecting our community.

Justin grew up in Chicago's suburbs and attended Northern Illinois University. While at NIU, he played college football and set numerous records for receptions, yards, and touchdowns. After graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Communication, Justin was drafted by the NFL to play as a Wide Receiver and Kick Returner for the Tennessee Titans. He briefly played for the New York Jets from 2004 to 2008 before returning to the Titans for an additional year. During this time, he successfully led his teams to the playoffs for five of his eight years in the league. For his impressive accomplishments and record, Justin was inducted into the NIU Hall of Fame in 2011 and ranked in the top 10 among NIU's 50 Greatest Players in Huskie Stadium history. In recognition of his philanthropy to NIU, the university has established the Justin & Sherrone McCareins Auditorium at their state-of-the-art Academic and Athletic Performance Center.

After playing for the NFL, Justin began his public service career in 2009 as a law enforcement officer for the city of Coral Springs, Florida. During his six-year tenure as a patrol officer, he worked closely with other police units to effectively enforce criminal law and serve his community. In 2015, Justin moved to Frisco to assist his brother Jay in opening MAC Speed and Strength to train elite athletes. He also volunteered as an assistant football coach at McKinney Christian Academy for two years. Currently, Justin manages a large ranch in Whitewright alongside his wife Sherrone. Together, they raise a variety of animals and generously donate food and other goods to underprivileged families. I am proud of the work Justin has accomplished for our community and his continued support for those in need.

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

RECOGNIZING DUDA SABINO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Duda has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perse-

verance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Duda, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Duda'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 Duda Sabino on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

SLOW GROWTH DESTROYS JOBS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we enter National Small Business Week, the failed policies of Biden have made it nearly impossible for them to succeed.

Last week, the Commerce Department reported that economic growth for the country is weaker than expected.

The gross domestic product for first quarter, a measure of goods and services produced, grew at its slowest pace in two years—while prices rose at a faster rate, destroying jobs.

Small businesses account for nearly half of the American private job creation and forty-three percent of the employees in South Carolina. The National Federation of Independent Businesses with local chambers make a difference from North Augusta to Blythewood to Orangeburg and Barnwell.

House Republicans are fighting to protect small businesses and create jobs.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War on Terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

Congratulations to Speaker MIKE JOHNSON for promoting Peace Through Strength to deter dictators. Lawfare persecution must stop as President Trump persecution and Hamas terrorists provided amnesty.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOE PARISI

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring the contributions of Dane County Executive Joe Parisi:

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi has had a long career in public service that dates back to 1996, having worked as a legislative aide in the Wisconsin State Capitol, elected as the Dane County Clerk, and elected to the State Assembly for Wisconsin's 48th District before being elected as the Dane County Executive on April 5th, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi handled the Dane County's budget with precision to run the

Dane County Regional Airport, the Henry Vilas Zoo, the county landfill, a host of parks, much of the criminal justice system, and an impactful human services program; and

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi fostered excellent working relationships with South Central Wisconsin's local elected officials to invest in infrastructure, combat climate change, and protect the area's water, and

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi has been credited as championing partnerships with local organizations to help create trust with many communities within Dane County and promoting racial equity in government and the workforce, and

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi has been involved in projects such as youth training programs, expanding solar and renewable energy, apprenticeships in county parks, mental health initiatives, and a program that helps people expunge criminal records, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby proclaim May 1, 2024, as Joe Parisi Day in honor of his service to his community, Dane County, and the State of Wisconsin. I join his friends, family, and colleagues in offering him best wishes on his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING BARRETT RIVERA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Barrett Rivera who owns a local small business, Rivera's Flooring, Kitchens and More. As a Veteran, Mr. Rivera has spent many years giving back to his fellow brothers and sisters in arms who needed help. His Military Makeover program involves fixing up Veterans' homes when they can't afford the repair or maintenance that is needed. He also has sent his employees into the woods in search of a local missing child and helped elderly neighbors with needed repairs. He is not the type of person to seek recognition, he simply does whatever he thinks is right.

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 Mr. Rivera has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD
FOR PETER MUNSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Peter Munson of Pottsboro, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Peter is an experienced jurist and litigator who has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Peter was born in Sherman, Texas, in 1944. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1967 with a Bachelor of Business

Administration and obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of Texas in 1970. Since then, Peter has continuously engaged in civil trial law and maintains several office locations across Grayson County. He is also board certified in Family Law and licensed to practice before the US Supreme Court. In 1984, former Governor Mark White appointed Peter to serve as a life member of the Uniform Law Commission to help clarify state statutory law.

Throughout his extensive legal career, Peter has continued to be actively involved in numerous charitable organizations to benefit students and individuals in need. He is a current Trustee for the Austin College Board and was the former Director of the Denison and Sherman Chambers of Commerce. Moreover, he previously served in leadership roles for Grayson United Way, Grayson Salvation Army, and Boy Scouts of America. A devoted man of faith, Peter attends the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Denison with his wife, Kathleen. I am proud to recognize Peter today for his lifelong commitment to uphold the rule of law and fight for justice.

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

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY ABURTO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Anthony 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 Anthony, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Anthony's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING NEIR'S TAVERN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Neir's Tavern, a beloved establishment located in the heart of Woodhaven, Queens. From its inception in 1829, Neir's Tavern has contributed to New York City's rich cultural history. Today, I am marking the momentous occasion of Neir's Tavern receiving the Queensmark Historical Designation award from the Queens Historical Society of New York.

This designation is not only meaningful for the Woodhaven, Queens community, it also highlights the significant contributions of Loycent Gordon, the current owner of Neir's

Tavern. A public servant who dedicated more than two decades as a New York City firefighter and was one of the first African American Lieutenant's in the FDNY Hazmat Division.

In 2009, he courageously stepped up and purchased the establishment when it was set to shutter its doors. Loycent is the embodiment of the American dream, immigrating at the age of 10 from the island of Jamaica to Jamaica, Queens. His business acumen and sense of community has contributed greatly to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Woodhaven.

As we commemorate this milestone in the history of Neir's Tavern, let us reaffirm our commitment to preserving and celebrating the cultural landmarks that make our communities unique as well as the small businesses that are the backbone of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Neir's Tavern on its well-deserved Queensmark historical designation and in wishing Loycent Gordon many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING RANDAL MESSER

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Randal Messer as the 2023–2024 Walton County Educational Support Professional of the Year. For the past thirty-three years, Mr. Messer has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best educational support professionals in the Nation. It is recognized that the position of Paraprofessional can be taxing but can also be so rewarding. Mr. Messer performs his many duties without question or hesitation and does so with enthusiasm and a commitment to cultivate a safe and healthy school environment.

Mr. Messer is revered by his Principal and colleagues for his positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond the scope of his job duties. He is often asked for input to adjust or problem solve at his school. He selflessly considers the needs of both students and staff because of the immense pride he has for his school.

Mr. Messer's support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of the school. He is always willing to help wherever assistance is needed. Mr. Messer has displayed dedicated teamwork by providing staff and students with technology support and is always willing to lend a helping hand. I commend him for his steadfast willingness to serve as an example for those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all his admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Mr. Randal Messer as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mr. Randal Messer for his accomplishments and his commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Walton County School District. I thank him for

his service and wish him all the best for continued success.

RECOGNIZING KRISTIE SEARS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Kristie Sears of Bomhoff Law Firm, who is an outstanding volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club of Hernando County. Kristie's dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to the Club and its mission has left a lasting imprint on the lives of those she works with. Her tireless efforts have positively impacted the organization and community, serving as an inspiration for others to follow her lead.

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. Sears has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR LARRY PHILLIPS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Lawrence "Larry" Phillips of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Judge Phillips currently serves the 59th District Court in Grayson County, and he has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

A graduate of Baylor University, Judge Phillips attended law school at the University of Houston. In 2003, he was elected to serve in the Texas House of Representatives for the 62nd District, a position he held for over fifteen years. While in the legislature, Judge Phillips chaired numerous committees and served in leadership positions for the Southern Legislative Conference, the Council of State Governments, and the Red River Boundary Commission.

In 2019, Judge Phillips won a special election to serve on the 59th District Court after being appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to fill a vacancy in the previous year. He presides over felony criminal, civil, family, and juvenile matters, including the STAR Recovery Court program. Additionally, Judge Phillips conducts judicial oversight through his positions as Administrative Judge and Chair of the Bail Bond Board. He is the current President of the Texas Association of Specialty Courts and the former President of the Federal Eastern District of Texas Bar Association. Judge Phillips is a devoted man of faith, and he attends the Post Oak Fellowship Church in Sherman with his wonderful wife Robin. He enjoys serving in their children's church ministry, traveling, gardening, and spending time

with his grandchildren. I commend Judge Phillips for his commitment to upholding the rule of law and improving the world around us.

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

RECOGNIZING CHETAN SHEELY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Chetan 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 Chetan, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Chetan'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 Chetan Sheely on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING SAMMY MCDOWELL

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sammy McDowell, who was a community leader, restaurateur, and friend to all.

Sammy grew up in Minneapolis and was a fixture in the community throughout his life. He worked in food service for many years before starting his own catering service and restaurant. His flagship restaurant, Sammy's Avenue Eatery opened in 2012 on West Broadway Avenue in North Minneapolis. Not only has Sammy's served delicious food for over a decade, it has also become an important gathering place for the community. He had recently expanded and began operating a Sammy's Avenue Eatery pop-up in Saint Paul, in a space which features Black-owned businesses. Even as a business owner, Sammy never compromised his generosity towards others and always went the extra mile to check on the wellbeing of his friends, as well as his customers. Sammy's passion for his community was contagious, and I know that the spaces he created will continue to be sources of friendship, inspiration, and comfort.

Sammy was also a well known devoted member of Shiloh Temple and sang in the choir there for many years. He was worshiping among loved ones at Shiloh just before his death. He had a hand in many things throughout the community, and was always a familiar face at events around the city. This past week, a balloon release was held in several U.S. cities to celebrate Sammy's life. These nationwide celebrations are a testament to Sammy's admirable ability to make an impression on those around him. His company will be dearly

missed by those who had the privilege to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the incredibly full life of Sammy McDowell and recognizing his accomplishments in entrepreneurship and community-building, and his immeasurable impact on the people and city of Minneapolis.

RECOGNIZING RYDER GASTON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Mr. Ryder Gaston. Mr. Gaston has spent his life serving our country and his community. He opened a non-profit, Cryoeze22, in New Port Richey, which serves military, veterans, law enforcement, first responders, and their families. Cryoeze22 utilizes holistic, scientific-based therapies. He and his family also work closely with each client to connect them with needed services in the community. He is committed to being part of the solution to help reduce suicide, depression, PTSD and an array of other health issues that often negatively impact our nation's heroes.

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 Mr. Gaston has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR MARK RUSSELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Mark is a graduate of the Hobe Sound Bible College in Florida, where he received a bachelor's degree in educational administration in 1970. He began working at the Wright-Patterson AFB Medical Center's Radiation Oncology facility that same year while completing post-graduate studies. Mark later received his Master of Science in Radiological Physics from Ohio State University and a Master of Health Administration from Washington University. Throughout his extensive career, he has published numerous studies on the topic of oncology and worked diligently to bring us one step closer to defeating cancer. From 2007 to 2012, Mark served as the Director for Physics and Technology Services at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Florida.

When he retired in 2013, Mark continued to make an impact on our community in many different ways. He actively volunteers for the Grayson County Republican Party and is a

member of the Conservative Men's Club of Texoma. Additionally, Mark works closely with the Southwest Conference of the Bible Methodist Church and devotes himself to strengthening his faith, family, and love of country. In his free time, he enjoys reading, learning history, woodworking, and flying. In fact, Mark is a licensed commercial pilot and a former certified flight instructor. I am proud of the work he has accomplished for our community, and I am sure he will continue to make a positive impact on the world around us.

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

RECOGNIZING MIGUEL AGUAYO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Miguel 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 Miguel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Miguel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING AND COMMENDING WILLIAM SAMUEL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representatives MARK POCAN, STEVEN HORSFORD and DEBBIE DINGELL, to honor and commend William Samuel on his retirement.

On April 30, 2024, William Samuel retired as the Director of Government Affairs at the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), and from his position as Chair of the AFL-CIO's Legislative Committee.

Mr. Samuel has dedicated his life to fighting for America's workers. He started his career as a legislative representative for the National Treasury Employees Union and the American Federation of Government Employees. Later, Mr. Samuel worked as the chief lobbyist at the United Mine Workers of America for 11 years, where he led the successful campaign to win passage of federal legislation guaranteeing lifetime health benefits to more than two hundred thousand retired miners and their dependents.

Mr. Samuel continued his career fighting to improve the lives of America's working class in the Clinton Administration, serving as Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor, then as a

Senior Advisor to Vice President Al Gore, serving as the Vice President's principal advisor on labor policy.

Finally, Mr. Samuel ended his career after 23 years at the AFL-CIO, advocating for its twelve million, five hundred thousand members.

On behalf of the Congressional Labor Caucus, I would like to thank Mr. Samuel for his partnership in fighting to raise standards for all workers, congratulate him on his accomplished career in the labor movement, and extend great appreciation for outstanding service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Bill Samuel on his career of service and in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING JIM HOST

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN TONER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, the Honorable Stephen Toner. Judge Toner exemplifies servant leadership through his extensive involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. Beginning his journey in the program as a youth, he attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, a commitment he has sustained into his adult life. Noteworthy is his dedicated service to the Withlacoochee District for more than a decade, holding positions such as District Commissioner, District Vice Chair, and presently, District Chair. Furthermore, he plays an active role on the Council Executive Board for the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council. Engagement in scouting has afforded Judge Toner a constructive avenue to contribute to his community. On numerous weekends, he can be found instructing merit badge classes, engaging in service initiatives at camp, or simply conversing with scouts, serving as a positive role model for them. Judge Toner plays a pivotal role in inspiring the youth involved in the program to strive for excellence. His dedication lies in ensuring their readiness to tackle life's challenges, irrespective of their magnitude. By emphasizing focus on tasks, objectives, and goals, he instills motivation. Notably, he prioritizes the well-being of our youth over personal interests, establishing trustworthiness and fostering a sense of confidence. The Boy Scouts of America's mission is to "prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Judge Toner exemplifies this mission through his dedication to supporting the youth of our community. Leading by example, he remains steadfast in his willingness to contribute in any capacity necessary to further this noble cause.

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

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR MIKE SHAW

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Mike grew up in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles. From a young age, he maintained a strong commitment to helping others and

serving our nation in any way he can. In 1958, Mike joined the United States Marine Corps, where he specialized in operating sophisticated communications technology. With his new skills in hand, he began a career as a communications technician on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line, a network of radar stations located in the U.S., Canada, and Greenland. His efforts helped protect our national security and allowed the United States to effectively detect incoming Soviet aircraft and prepare a response.

After spending two years in the Arctic, Mike returned home and worked as a field engineer in the oil fields of Texas and Louisiana. He also served as a technical representative for the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the Vietnam War before going back to working on the DEW Line for an additional five years. In 1999, Mike retired and moved to Denison with his family, where he volunteered at local museums in various capacities. He served as the President of the Denison Genealogical Society and was the Precinct 201 Chair for the Grayson County Republican Party. For his extensive work and efforts to uphold conservative values, the GCRP awarded Mike the Eisenhower Award and the Chairman's Award in 2015 and 2020, respectively. In his free time, he enjoys studying history, genealogy, and collecting artifacts. I am proud to recognize Mike today for his outstanding contributions to our community.

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

RECOGNIZING SOPHIA SLAUSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Sophia 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 Sophia, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sophia'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 Sophia Slauson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

COMMEMORATING THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK APRIL

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 49th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

Forty-nine years ago today, on April 30, 1975, the Republic of Vietnam was overthrown by communist forces in an event known as

"Black April" or the "Fall of Saigon," which is observed in Vietnamese-American communities across the United States each year. This event marked the end of the Vietnam War, which claimed the lives of as many as 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers and nearly 60,000 American soldiers, as well as hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians throughout Southeast Asia. I recognize the bravery of the soldiers of the South Vietnamese military who fought side by side with the United States Armed Forces in defense of the ideals of democracy and freedom.

Since Black April, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese, many of them refugees, have resettled in the United States and built vibrant communities across the country that contribute to the rich diversity of this Nation. They are the sixth largest immigrant group in the United States, representing nine percent of all immigrants from Asia in the United States. And they continue to show fierce commitment to those ideals of freedom and democracy as they speak out against human rights abuses in Vietnam and throughout the world.

Forty-nine years after the Fall of Saigon, I am honored to pay homage to the journeys many Vietnamese refugees and immigrants took across oceans to call America their new home. I am also proud to sponsor the Southeast Asian Deportation Relief Act of 2023, legislation that would end deportations of Southeast Asian American refugees, including many Vietnamese Americans, and establish a pathway to return to the U.S. for the more than 2,000 refugees who have already been deported. On this anniversary, I call on my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation and honoring our commitment to the Southeast Asian Americans who made this country home after enduring war, violence, and genocide.

I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the service and contributions of the Vietnamese American community, and to commemorate Black April on this 49th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

RECOGNIZING DAVID JACKSON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, David Jackson. For nearly 25 years, David has served the clients and staff of Operation PAR in several capacities. David started out as a detention screener for PAR's Pasco Juvenile Assessment Center in August 2000 and worked his way up to Program Supervisor after earning his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. In 2008, he transferred to Operation PAR's Medication Assisted Patient Services (MAPS) program in Port Richey, where he worked as a substance abuse counselor, assisting clients to learn the skills necessary to overcome their substance use and mental health issues. David went on to complete his Master's degree in Forensic Psychology and became a Master's Level Certified Addiction Professional through the Florida Certification Board. Soon after, David became Clinic Supervisor at MAPS Pasco where he worked

with both clients and counselors to ensure successful treatment outcomes. In November 2015, David was promoted to Program Director at MAPS-Hernando where he has worked tirelessly to increase awareness of the dangers of opioid misuse and educate clients, families, and communities about treatment services through attending meetings, community events, and membership in the Hernando County Community Alliance. As Director, David successfully navigated the COVID-19 public health emergency to prioritize continuity of care for clients while ensuring the health and safety of his team. In 2022, David was named Operation PAR MAPS Program Supervisor of the Year and in 2023 he was named Operation PAR MAPS Clinician of the Year.

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

RECOGNIZING GENERAL LESTER L. LYLES, USAF

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of General Lester L. Lyles, United States Air Force, (ret.) to his country, to the mission of our armed forces, and to the people of this great Nation. General Lyles is a true leader whose impact has left an indelible mark on America's defense and space sectors, and the security and prosperity of our great Nation.

The General has an educational background steeped in engineering and a distinguished career that has spanned more than 35 years in the U.S. Air Force. He began his academic journey just up the road from this very chamber—at Howard University—earning a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 1968 followed by his Master of Science in mechanical/nuclear engineering from New Mexico State University in 1969. His academic pursuits continued to include graduating from prestigious institutions including the Defense Systems Management College in 1980, the Armed Forces Staff College in 1981 and the National War College in 1985. In recognition of his achievements, General Lyles acquired honorary Doctor of Law degrees from New Mexico State University in 2002 and Urbana University in 2009.

General Lyles officially entered the U.S. military after commencement in 1968 as a graduate of the Air Force ROTC program. Throughout his tenure, General Lyles held various assignments and a series of high-ranking positions, including Commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center, Director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Vice Chief of Staff of the Headquarters of the U.S. Air Force, and Commander of the U.S. Air Force Materiel Command.

Notably, General Lyles led the Space Launch Recovery Program following the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster and later directed the Strategic Defense Initiative under President Ronald Reagan. His strategic vision and dedication played a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of our nation's aerospace and defense landscape.

Retiring from the military in 2003, General Lyles continued to exemplify his passion for

service by transitioning into the world of consulting for both the private and public sectors. General Lyles is currently an executive board member at defense and aerospace contractor KBR, a trustee of Analytic Services, and a managing partner at Four Seasons Ventures, LLC. General Lyles' accomplishments are further underscored by his status as a member of the Defense Science Board, the International Security Advisory Board at the U.S. Department of State, and the President's Intelligence Advisory Board in the White House.

His commitment to community service is equally admirable. General Lyles has been a steadfast member of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum board, where he was recently honored, and a critical leader of the National Space Council Users' Advisory Group. In the Commonwealth, he's been a recognized leader in Virginia Humanities, the Virginia Academy of Science, Technology and Medicine and the Partnership for Public Service.

Over the course of his illustrious career, General Lyles has earned numerous accolades, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster. In 1990, he was named Astronautics Engineer of the Year by the National Space Club (NSC) and later received the Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award for outstanding contributions to military equal opportunity policies and programs from the NAACP in 1994. General Lyles was named Black Engineer of the Year/Lifetime Achievement in 2003 and received the General Thomas D. White Award for distinguished service in national security from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2012. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2022 and received the Astronautics Engineering Award from the Huntsville Chapter of the NSC just last year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, the citizens of the Virginia Commonwealth and, indeed, the American people, please join me in a heartfelt "thank you" to General Lyles, whose enduring contributions to the United States of America and its missions continue to influence aerospace, defense, and space communities to this day.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR REGGIE SMITH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Reginald "Reggie" Smith of Van Alstyne, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Reggie is an experienced litigator and current member of the Texas House of Representatives for District 62.

Reggie is a 6th generation Texan and was born in Sherman. In 1991, he graduated from Austin College with a degree in political science. He later received his law degree from South Texas College of Law in 1994 and was admitted into the State Bar. In 2003, Reggie founded Reginald B. Smith Jr. PLLC, which specializes in family and civil law. Over the years, he has successfully practiced family law

and was recognized as “Best in Texoma” by the publishers of the Sherman Herald-Democrat for three consecutive years.

Before he was first elected to the Texas House in 2018, Reggie served as the Chairman of the Grayson County Republican Party and the Northern Regional Director of the Texas Republican County Chairman’s Association. As a legislator, he serves on the Appropriations Committee and Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee. Throughout his time in the Texas House, Reggie has consistently fought to protect the unborn, lower taxes, defend our Constitutional rights, promote individual liberty, and support our schools and educators. He is actively involved in charitable organizations and previously served on the board of Big Brother Big Sisters and Friends of Scouting with the Texoma Valley Boy Scouts. Along with his family, Reggie attends the First Baptist Church in Van Alstyne. Without question, he has accomplished so much for our community and the State of Texas. I am proud to call Reggie a good friend of mine, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

RECOGNIZING MATTHIAS ALDACO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Matthias 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 Matthias, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Matthias’s hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Matthias Aldaco on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

INTRODUCTION OF CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, today I am introducing the Captive Primate Safety Act of 2024.

The private ownership of primates poses significant public health and animal welfare issues. Primates are not pets: they are highly intelligent and social animals whose needs cannot be met when they are inappropriately confined. However, primates are easily obtained on the Internet and through out-of-state dealers and auctions.

There have been several high-profile incidents of pet primates attacking humans including when a Connecticut woman was mauled by her neighbor’s pet chimpanzee and lost her hands, nose, eyes, lips, and mid-face bone structure, along with enduring significant brain injuries. There is no reason to tolerate the risk of an avoidable tragedy like this that puts the public and first responders at risk. Beyond the immediate health risk of an attack, these animals also often carry dangerous viruses that can be transferred to humans such as COVID-19 and Herpes B.

The Captive Primate Safety Act supplements the more than 30 state laws that already outlaw the private ownership of primates by amending the Lacey Act to ban interstate or foreign commerce, or possession, of any prohibited primate species.

It should not take another tragedy to make common sense change. I thank my colleagues Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK, Congressman JOE NEGUSE, Congresswoman NANCY MACE, and Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL for their partnership, and I look forward to advancing this critical legislation to safeguard public health and animal welfare.

RECOGNIZING BRENDA FRAZIER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions made to our community by one of my constituents, Brenda Frazier, who is described as a volunteer with extraordinary integrity, empathy, and commitment to the cause. Brenda began her journey with A New Generation Pregnancy Center in June of 2014, bringing with her a knowledge and passion for ministry work. Her primary role as a volunteer is to work one-on-one with clients who find themselves pregnant and are not sure what to do. Her connectivity, understanding, and clarity in providing support, education and truth have provided hundreds of clients with the information and knowledge to help them with their decision-making process. Brenda exemplifies purity in action, deed and word. Her kind and thoughtful outlook provides a respite to many people who find themselves in unchartered territories. In addition to her client advocacy position, Brenda provides unwavering support for the pregnancy center’s fundraisers. She has been an instrumental part in the planning, organization and execution of our Annual Clay Shoot. From finding sponsors to sourcing exquisite silent auction and raffle prizes, her zeal for event planning is phenomenal. She does not miss a beat, championing the center’s cause along her path, and providing an avenue for individuals and organizations to understand the mission of services provided to our community. Her energy and enthusiasm for helping others knows no bounds.

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

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR STEVE SIMMONS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Steve Simmons of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Steve has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Steve was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1955. Throughout his childhood, he frequently moved around the country with his family until they finally settled in Anna, Texas. In high school, Steve was an active member of his school’s football team and had a desire to play college football. His football coach, Hal Porter, had a tremendous impact on young Steve. Coach Porter’s influential leadership style inspired Steve to say, “I want to be special to my kids like he is special to us.” From that day on, Steve knew he wanted to become a football coach himself and make a difference in the lives of our youth.

After graduating from high school in 1973, Steve attended McMurry University and pursued a coaching-teaching career while playing football. He married the love of his life, Doreen, in 1978. They moved to Van Alstyne, where Steve kickstarted his football coaching career at Van Alstyne ISD. He also coached at Chillicothe and Celina before joining the United States Marine Corps Reserves. While in the Marines, Steve earned the rank of Corporal and received a Marksmanship Award while continuing to coach football. He credits his strong faith in God to guiding him towards a long-term coaching opportunity at Howe ISD. For his dedication and efforts, he was named Campus Teacher of the Month twice and was recognized as Teacher of the Month by KLAKE Radio. Steve was also inducted into the Howe Hall of Honor and selected as one of the top educators in Howe ISD’s history. From helping to fundraise, driving students on field trips, and speaking at pep rallies, Steve has made a wonderful impact on the lives of our children while strengthening his faith and community involvement. His signature chant, “Highly Motivated, Truly Dedicated”, continues to encourage students to be the best they can be.

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

RECOGNIZING SAM SMITH

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Sam 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 Sam, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This

award is a testament to Sam'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 Sam Smith on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING MIA MONROE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mia Monroe upon her retirement from the National Park Service after 50 years of extraordinary public service.

A Bay Area native, Mia grew up in San Carlos, in a family that valued connections to the natural world and encouraged exploration from the beach and the redwoods to their garden at home. Mia absorbed this appreciation of the environment, organizing the original Earth Day at her high school and creating the first recycling center in San Carlos in her family's basement. While pursuing her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, Mia signed up to volunteer with the Sierra Club and met Amy Meyer, a legendary Bay Area environmental advocate who was leading the effort to protect the Golden Gate area by turning it into a national park. Amy became a mentor to Mia and the two would become lifelong friends with a shared passion for environmental stewardship.

In 1972, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) was successfully established. Shortly thereafter, Mia began leading student trips to the park as part of her work for the San Francisco School District where she taught students about science through outdoor education. When this program ended, she was recruited by the GGNRA in 1978 to become a park ranger. Her first assignment was at Fort Point coordinating youth environmental education programs. Her supervisor, aware of Mia's background in forestry, suggested she trade posts with a Muir Woods ranger who was interested in military history. A better fit for both, the trade became permanent, and Mia formally began her career at Muir Woods in 1982.

Mia was stationed at the Muir Woods Redwood Creek Watershed for over 40 years. During that time, she held a variety of positions and led innumerable projects to restore and protect the local ecosystem and connect countless visitors, traveling from across the globe, to the natural environment. In addition to her service with the National Park Service, Mia is one of the founders and the lead coordinator of the Xerces Society's Western Monarch Count, which engages volunteers in collecting data on the overwintering monarch population on the Pacific coast. Her work has contributed to the rise in attention to critical monarch conservation efforts. She is also a member of the Steering Committee for One Tam, a cooperative environmental advocacy organization composed of the National Park Service, California State Parks, the Marin Municipal Water District, Marin County Parks, and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Mr. Speaker, I have personally worked with Mia Monroe for more than a decade on a di-

versity of critical issues affecting the GGNRA. Known for her forward thinking, deep knowledge of the local ecosystem, and welcoming demeanor, Mia leaves an indelible legacy on Muir Woods, the greater Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and all those visitors whom she has taught and inspired. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude to Mia for her generosity of spirit, innumerable good deeds, and in sending her best wishes on her next endeavors.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR BRITTON BROOKS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Britton Brooks of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Britton is an outstanding lawyer and prosecutor who has dedicated himself to serving and protecting our community.

Britton was born in Tyler, Texas. In 2004, he graduated from Austin College with a bachelor's degree in psychology and received his Juris Doctor from St. Mary's School of Law three years later. For fifteen years, Britton served as the assistant district attorney for Collin County and Grayson County and is well renowned for successfully prosecuting numerous felony cases involving murderers and child predators. In 2018, he established a private practice specializing in family law and personal injury. For his excellent work and efforts, Britton was named Sherman Community Leader of the Year twice and selected as the Best of Texoma criminal, family, and divorce attorney in 2019.

When he is not in the courtroom, Britton is actively involved in numerous community and charitable initiatives. He served three terms on the State Republican Executive Committee for SD 30 and was a board member for the Sherman Independent School District, Grayson County Crisis Center, and Sherman Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Britton was the previous President of the Sherman Kiwanis Club and Chairman of the Wilson N. Jones Hospital Board of Trustees. I am proud of the work Britton has accomplished for our community and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA ARTICHOKE & VEGETABLE GROWERS CORPORATION DBA OCEAN MIST FARMS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a century of agricultural excellence by The California Artichoke & Vegetable Growers Corporation dba Ocean Mist Farms.

In 1924, four Italian immigrant families founded The California Artichoke & Vegetable

Growers Corporation in Castroville, California. In the beginning, they only grew artichokes, broccoli, and brussels sprouts. Later in the second half of the 20th century, they expanded their growing operations to include cauliflower, cardoon, fennel, iceberg lettuce, leeks, and a variety of specialty vegetables, making them one of the premiere vegetable growers in the Salinas Valley.

Then in 1995, The California Artichoke & Vegetable Growers Corporation started doing business as Ocean Mist Farms, a name they continue to use today. With their new name, Ocean Mist Farms started growing organic artichokes and other organic produce while expanding to Southern California to provide fresh produce year-round.

I recognize Ocean Mist Farms for their numerous contributions to the fresh produce and agriculture industry, for being an exceptional employer by creating jobs for thousands of people over the years, cultivating environments where people could learn and grow, and for their philanthropy and service in the community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of California's 19th District, I commemorate Ocean Mist Farms, formerly known as The California Artichoke & Vegetable Growers Corporation, for their success as the largest grower-shipper of fresh artichokes in North America, and for their outstanding leadership in the industry and community over the past century.

RECOGNIZING ALAN WIKETT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Mr. Alan Wikett. Mr. Wikett is the founder of Warrior 321, an anti-human trafficking awareness group. According to those who have worked alongside him, Mr. Wikett's passion for prevention and assistance is unrivaled. Though he is supposed to be retired, he is constantly on the road educating different organizations and gathering new intel to help the organization better keep our community safe. He has spearheaded many successful initiatives to educate victims of human trafficking about the availability of services that can keep them safe and at-risk populations about how to avoid becoming a victim. Mr. Wikett has also spoken to countless civic organizations to help garner support and raise awareness about the dangers of human trafficking.

It is clear that Mr. Wikett has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and on the lives of countless people he has worked with in the fight against the horrific crime of human trafficking. I am grateful for his service.

HONORING BILL MORITZ

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the devotion, wisdom, and innovative

philanthropy of a Pikes Peak community champion, Bill Moritz. He was prematurely taken from us on March 16, 2024 at only 72 years of age by cancer. Bill was a man of unwavering faith and tireless dedication to the Lord, to community service, and to mission-based companies.

After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, Bill met his wife Mary Lee Martin in 1975. Together they raised four children. In 1985, Bill earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the O.W. Coburn School of Law, embarking on a career and path that would impact countless lives.

A Christian discipleship ministry, The Navigators, brought the Moritz family to Colorado Springs in 1985. Bill founded Moritz & Associates, PC in 1988 and practiced law in Colorado Springs for over 35 years. He specialized in estate planning, non-profit organizations, and business law. He was lead attorney for From Success 2 Significance which provides training and strategies that empower generous families to live a more significant life.

Out of personal tragedy in 1998, when the Moritz's daughter Breanna Joy was killed in a car accident, there emerged Joy to the World Foundation Thailand. Bill and Mary Lee founded this anti-trafficking ministry to protect vulnerable children and families in northern Thailand. His passion for wise and impactful philanthropy led him to co-found a community foundation in Colorado Springs in 1989. Bill served as the Executive Director of the New Horizons Foundation until his death. In 2003 Bill founded Joy to the World Foundation to help philanthropic families and ministry professionals multiply the impact of their generosity and service.

Bill's 35 years of wise counsel helped numerous ministries, including among may others: The LeTourneau University Foundation, Navigators, Baptist Bible College and Seminary, Harvest Workers, Christian Broadcasting Network, International Bible Society, Compassion International, Oral Roberts University, Seattle Pacific University, Young Life, The Christian and Missionary Alliance Denomination, Summit Ministries, Christian Blind Mission International, HCJB World Radio, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Mission of Mercy, and the YMCA. Bill also authored a book, *Unlocking The Full Potential of Your Assets; Creative Uses of the Charitable Remainder Unitrust*.

Bill is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, their three children—Joni, Josh, and Amy—along with their spouses, and 11 cherished grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the outstanding life of Bill Moritz. We practiced law together for a short time early in our careers. I saw firsthand his integrity, his Christian commitment, and his devotion to his family.

Today I ask my colleagues to honor a life of significant generosity, philanthropy, and innovation. Because of Bill Moritz's life Colorado's Fifth Congressional District and indeed the world are a better place.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM
COFIELD WIDNER

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William Cofield Widner

on his well-deserved retirement from Southern Company after 43 years of service.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Southern Company provides clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy to 9 million customers nationwide, including throughout the State of Georgia and its First Congressional District.

Throughout his career, Cofield's hard work, dedication and commitment to the communities where he has lived and served has made an indelible mark on our state and Nation.

A Georgia native, Cofield began his career at Southern Company in 1981 and has served in various roles including at Georgia Power and Southern Company Gas. A portion of his career focused on serving customers in his hometown of Newnan. He also supported Georgia Power's residential and commercial customers, resource planning, nuclear development and regulatory affairs organizations, which recently announced the successful operation of America's first new carbon-free nuclear energy reactors in more than 30 years at Plant Vogtle.

Additionally, Cofield's work with the Georgia Department of Economic Development's "Georgia Allies" partnership has helped continually enhance the state's business climate, keeping Georgia ranked as the number-one state for business according to Area Development magazine.

On behalf of the people of the State of Georgia, I congratulate Cofield and wish him, his wife Jane, his sons Drew and Jack, and his grandson Bo the very best as he enters the next phase of his life.

HONORING WILLIAM SAMUEL ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ms DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation that I rise today to recognize William Samuel, the Director of Government Affairs at the AFL-CIO, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to wish him well as he marks his retirement from a decades long career fighting on behalf of America's working families. Bill has been an extraordinary leader, advocate and friend. And, while I have no doubt that he will continue to stay engaged, the AFL-CIO and the labor movement will not be the same without him.

A graduate of Oberlin College and the George Washington University Law Center, Bill knew early on that he wanted to focus his professional life on labor law. He began his career as a legislative representative for the National Treasury Employees Union and the American Federation of Government Employees, representing federal employees across a multitude of agencies.

Bill went on to serve as the chief lobbyist at the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). At the time, the UMWA had not found its voice and he helped to turn that around. For Bill, the fight to ensure safe working conditions, fair wages, and secure health and retirement benefits has always been a core value. It is his deep commitment to those values that have

guided his career. That was perhaps most profoundly exemplified as Bill led the successful effort to pass federal legislation guaranteeing lifetime health benefits to hundreds of thousands of retired miners and their dependents. In doing so, he quite literally changed their lives.

In 1995, Bill transitioned to federal service when he joined the Clinton Administration, serving as associate deputy secretary of labor under Secretaries Robert Reich and Alexis Herman. In 2000, Bill became senior policy adviser to Vice President Al Gore, a role in which he was both a principal adviser on labor policy issues and liaison to organized labor. This professional diversion allowed him the opportunity to shape and implement policies that he had long advocated for.

Following his federal service, Bill returned to the labor movement, joining the AFL-CIO where he served as the Director of Government Affairs for nearly twenty-five years. Made up of 55 affiliated unions and representing more than 12.5 million working Americans, it takes a unique combination of organization, insight, and leadership to work with such various entities to create a unified message and agenda. Bill has a unique talent for building consensus—a skill set which he has used throughout his career. Coordinating with each member union, engaging with leadership as well as rank and file, while also providing guidance and advocacy to Congressional Members and staff, Bill has built a distinguished reputation with all those who have had the opportunity to work with him. I, like many others, am so grateful to have benefited from his expertise and counsel. I thank him for that as well as his many years of friendship and support.

In a professional career that has spanned more than six decades, Bill Samuel has left an indelible mark on the labor movement in America. Many of those whose lives have been improved by his work will never meet or know Bill. Throughout his career he has been a champion for working Americans, standing up time and time again to protect their rights to safe working conditions, fair and livable wages, as well as secure health and retirement benefits. Today, as he marks his retirement, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest thanks to Bill for his outstanding service. My very best wishes to him, his wife, Tracy, and his children Jack and Lucy, for many more years of health and happiness as he begins this new life chapter.

MARRIAGE OF AMAN CHANDI AND
UDHAY KAHLON

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the union of my constituents and good friends, Aman Chandi and Udhay Kahlon, two individuals whose relationship began by chance and has grown into a commitment rooted in their shared traditions and love. With genuine happiness, I offer them my congratulations on their engagement and upcoming marriage.

At an airport surrounded by travelers, Aman and Udhay met by chance, and were encouraged to pursue one another by friends and

family. Their connection grew over dinner conversations, during which they discovered their common values, dreams, and goals.

Their relationship, developed through many hours of video calls and meaningful conversations, blossomed into love. This was formally recognized at a three-day Roka event, which ended with a proposal confirming their commitment. Aman and Udhay's experience shows that love can find us when we least expect it.

As we look forward to their wedding, we are reminded of the rich cultural heritage that their union celebrates. From the vibrant colors of the Mehndi event to the Sangeet ceremony, where music and laughter pave the way for unforgettable memories, their celebrations vividly represent tradition and modernity. The Haldi, Choora, and the sacred Anand Karaj ceremonies hold deep significance, marking the beginning of their life with blessings, happiness, and the promise of a bright future.

The marriage of Aman and Udhay signifies not just the union of two individuals, but the coming together of two families with shared values of hard work, community, and ambition. This union is set to expand upon these legacies, creating the foundation of a new chapter that promises to enrich their communities further and inspire future generations through a blend of tradition, integrity, and shared goals.

Mr. Speaker, as Aman and Udhay stand on the brink of their future, they do so with the support of their families, the blessings of their traditions, and the love that has brought them together. In celebrating Aman and Udhay, we celebrate the beauty of coming together, the strength of familial bonds, and the promise of a future filled with love, happiness, and prosperity.

On behalf of California's 25th District, I extend my warmest wishes to Aman, Udhay, and their families. May their union be blessed with love, laughter, and a lifetime of happiness. As they begin their shared future, let us celebrate the love that has brought them together.

Congratulations to Aman and Udhay. May their story inspire all, and their lives together be filled with joy and fulfillment.

RECOGNIZING AISYSS AMAYA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

Aisyss 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 Aisyss, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aisyss's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for H.R. 4866 and H.R. 4755. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 153, and YEA on Roll Call No. 154.

HONORING MARTHA "PATSEY" BROCKETT WAKEFIELD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and their effort to commemorate the men and women who achieved American independence, realizing that those Patriots believed in the noble cause of liberty and served valiantly to found a new nation.

More directly, I would like to acknowledge cooperative spirit of the Flower Mound, Benjamin Lyon, Cross Timbers, Captain Molly Corbin, Peters Colony, and Shawnee Trail Chapters of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution who have united to promote America's upcoming 250th birthday and endeavor to convey its relevance to our society. This cooperative spirit honors the tradition begun by the pioneers who settled the southern community of Denton County, now known as Copper Canyon.

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, the Flower Mound Chapter met to hold an official grave marking and dedication honoring Martha "Patsey" Brockett Wakefield (1797–1873), one of Denton County's early matriarchs, with an official grave marking and dedication at Chinn's Chapel Cemetery in Copper Canyon, Denton County, Texas.

As the youngest daughter of Revolutionary War Patriot William Ebenezer Brockett, born in 1797, Martha Brockett married Henry Wakefield, Jr. in January of 1817. Henry Wakefield, Jr. was the son of Revolutionary War Patriot Henry Wakefield, himself the offspring of Revolutionary War Patriot Charles Wakefield.

In 1853 Henry Wakefield, Jr. and his wife, Martha "Patsey" Brockett Wakefield, moved with their large family to 320 acres of land Henry purchased for \$320 in Denton County, Texas. In 1859, Silas Wakefield and his brother Simpson Burke Wakefield, two of Henry and Martha "Patsey's" 11 children, and among 9 who survived into adulthood, each purchased adjoining land grants of 160 acres nearby. Located on land purchased by Simpson, the Denton County Town of Waketon was named after the family.

Simpson's wife, Jane, with two other women, and Mary Stowe Chinn, founded Chinn's Chapel Methodist Church, believed to be the oldest church and school in Denton County.

Originally named Antioch, the chapel was built from donated logs provided by settlers visiting the nearby Lockhart Spring. In 1858 the community came together and assembled

the logs into the cabin structure that served as a church, school and as a temporary shelter for new settlers as they built their own homes. As settlers died from various causes, the settlers were frequently buried near the log cabin chapel. When Simpson and Jane Wakefield died a month apart in 1861, they were among the early burials in the Chinn's Chapel Cemetery.

The Christians worshipping in the log cabin were offered the service of a Methodist circuit rider preacher who would arrive regularly about once every three months. They sought membership in the Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and were admitted in 1872. They renamed the log cabin "Chinn's Chapel Methodist Church" in honor of the Chinn Family. Early day camp meetings were held each August in the valley below, an area that served as a campground for meetings at the Chinn Chapel Campground. The road beside it was part of the main road from Southern Denton County to the County seat and was called Chinn's Chapel Road. The area became well known in Denton County as the Chinn's Chapel Community, still recognized today with The Chinn's Chapel Log Cabin still standing in the Chinn's Chapel Cemetery on what is now known as Chinn Chapel Road.

The legacy of Martha "Patsey" is still evident today in the familiar Southern Denton landmarks that bear the names of her son and the efforts of her daughter-in-law and the Chinn family with whom they shared the values of the pioneer farming families: a love of family, God, and country; a spirit of community cooperation; practical problem solving with a know-how that comes from living on the land; and a respect for the richness and beauty of the rural Texas landscape.

On behalf of the 26th Congressional District of Texas, I honor Martha "Patsey" Brockett Wakefield and her spirit, exemplifying the fortitude and gratitude that are the foundations of Southern Denton County. Her descendants have left their imprint on this community for the over one million residents of this County they established, and I recognize their important role in establishing their rich history and the North Texas quality of life we are grateful to share.

HONORING WILLIAM C. TOOMBS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor WWII veteran and Arkansas Native, Mr. William Toombs, who will soon celebrate his 100th birthday.

Mr. Toombs served as a flight engineer gunner on both B17s and B24s with the 493rd bomb group of the 8th Army Air Force, also known as the "Mighty 8th."

He flew his first mission on June 6, 1944—D-Day—and went on to carry out over twenty successful missions.

For his heroism, Toombs was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, as well as several Air Medals and foreign decorations. In 2021, he was inducted into the Arkansas Military Veterans Hall of Fame.

Mr. Toombs has been an active spokesman for the "Mighty 8th," sharing their story in numerous interviews, and has continued to serve

his fellow veterans through his membership in several veterans organizations.

I thank Mr. William Toombs for his service and congratulate him on his 100th birthday.

HONORING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF DR. ROBERT 'BOB' PRUD'HOMME

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and retirement of Dr. Robert 'Bob' Prud'homme, a Senior Scholar and Professor at Princeton University who's work pioneering key facets of COVID-19 vaccination distribution helped save millions of lives across the globe.

A Mercer County resident, Bob is a retired Captain of the United States Army who proudly served his country during the Vietnam War. After his bravery in Vietnam, Bob was an environmental engineer in the U.S. Army Armaments Command where he received the Bronze Star and an Army Commendations Medal.

Bob excelled in his studies, earning a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University, a Masters Degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy from Harvard University, and finally a Doctoral Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. After this illustrious academic career, he began his tenure at Princeton University in 1978 as an adjunct professor in chemical engineering.

Bob has spent these last 46 years educating the next generation of engineers in New Jersey, and dedicating his own research to developing technologies that help make cost effective medicines and vaccinations. His work proved invaluable at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The technology he developed allowed for quick dissemination of COVID-19 vaccinations that helped save millions of lives across the globe. This technology is just one of many achievements Bob has pioneered throughout his long career. His research has been published over 400 times in national and international publications and his work has received support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He has also received many accolades and honors throughout his career, including recently being elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

Not only is Bob an exceptional engineer and researcher, he has been an active member at

Princeton Community Church for over two decades. It was here that he met his wife, Dottie. The couple now continues to bring the community together through twice-monthly bible study sessions at their home. Husband, father to six, and grandfather to eleven, Bob is always available to read a story, take a kid fishing, or perform a scientific experiment with his family. Students, colleagues, and neighbors all know Bob's passion for fly fishing through the many trips with friends he has planned to fishing locations across the country.

Bob embodies the spirit of service that makes me proud to represent people like him in New Jersey's Third Congressional District. We are lucky to have him as a member of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 153, and YEA on Roll Call No. 154.