

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REVEREND DR. CECIL
L. "CHIP" MURRAY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Cecil Murray, who passed away at the age of 94 on April 5, 2024.

Reverend Murray was born on September 26, 1929, in Lakeland, Florida. He graduated from Florida A&M University and served in the U.S. Air Force for ten years after graduating before moving to Los Angeles to earn a Ph.D. in religion from Claremont College's School of Religion.

He then became a pastor at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church, where he served for 27 years. He built the church up from a small congregation of 250 members to over 18,000 members by the time he retired. He used his time at the church to inspire and give back to his community. During his tenure at the church, he established a non-profit investment arm that brought \$400 million in investments to Los Angeles's minority and low-income neighborhoods.

Reverend Murray was also known for being an influential voice of reason during the 1992 Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, when he called for calm during a time of chaos and helped to rebuild the city following the riots.

Upon Reverend Murray's retirement from the church at age 75, he joined the University of Southern California's faculty, and started the Passing the Mantle Program, which later became known as the Cecil Murray Center at USC's Center for Religion and Civic Culture. He became a beloved and respected mentor at the university for future pastors who wanted to create projects to serve their communities.

Murray was preceded in death by his wife Bernadine, and is survived by his son Drew, niece Tammie, nephews Anthony and Kevin, grandniece April, and grandnephews Isaiah and Corey.

Pastor Murray touched many lives throughout his time as a pastor and university mentor, including my family's. He was my mother's pastor and was always very supportive of my family and me. He was a giant, but he was also a kind and gentle man who demonstrated what a purposeful life meant by living his faith each and every day. His compassionate mentorship and guidance helped make this a better world. He will be deeply missed. May he Rest in Peace and Power.

RECOGNIZING LAKE COUNTY,
FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Lake County Sheriff Peyton Grinnell, City of Clermont Police Chief Chuck Broadway, City of Leesburg Police Chief Rob Hicks, City of Fruitland Park Police Chief Gary Barrett Jr., City of Tavares Police Chief Sarah Coursey, City of Mascotte Police Chief Eric Pedersen, City of Groveland Police Chief Shawn Ramsey, Town of Astatula Police Chief Wally Hoagland, Town of Howey-in-the-Hills Police Chief Rick Thomas, and the law enforcement officers who keep Lake County safe every single day.

This week marks the annual observance of Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement, I encourage all Americans to join me not only this week, but every day, in recognizing the honor, courage, and commitment of America's law enforcement.

Our law enforcement officers are heroes in the community. They keep us safe and are willing to put their lives on the line every day in the course of their duties. It is impossible to fully express our gratitude or adequately recognize the professionalism of the men and women who voluntarily put their lives on the line for our safety and security. It is with deep respect that we pause today to honor the memory of the heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all the law enforcement officers who bravely and selflessly serve throughout Lake County. It is an honor to recognize them and all men and women in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING BARRY MEINDL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Barry Meindl, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Barry is always the first one to arrive and the last to leave. He has the most amazing heart

and compassion for this community. He astounds me with his boundless energy. 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. Meindl and his fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CONGRATULATING DAVID SCOTT
SIMPSON

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate David Scott Simpson on his "Book of Golden Deeds Award" presented by the Ocean City Exchange Club. This award goes to individuals who have selflessly and continuously served their community in South Jersey as Scott Simpson has done for many years. Scott is a native of Ocean City where he attended Ocean City High School and was a notably great baseball player and a member of the choir. After graduation, he attended the University of Delaware where he majored in business before returning to Ocean City to join his father at the family business, Play land Pier. A few years later he took over as the Chief of the company, all while continuing to serve his community by putting forth countless hours volunteering and donating to the local community organizations. Scott has volunteered for organizations such as the Ocean City Exchange club, of which he was a member for many years, the Ocean City Tourism Board, New Jersey Amusement Association, Ocean City Boardwalk Merchants Association, and served as a member of the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce. He has been married to the love of his life, Linda, for 32 years and they have two beautiful children together, Allison and David, who both graduated from Ocean City High School. I have no doubt that Scott will continue to showcase his outstanding leadership to his community by showing the great value of giving back to the community. Congratulations to Scott on receiving the highest honor, The Book of Golden Deeds. God Bless Scott and God Bless the United States of America.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 7109, THE
EQUAL REPRESENTATION ACT

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week I voted against H.R. 7109. This is yet

● 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.

another performative messaging bill brought by House Republicans. It would add a citizenship question in the census and then require congressional districts to be drawn based on the number of self-identified citizens.

Previously in 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an attempt to add a citizenship question to the census. The fact is House Republicans want to use this bill to redraw congressional districts to their advantage.

It's shameful that House Republicans continue to waste time pushing this unconstitutional bill as part of their nonsense conspiracy theory that non-citizens are voting in federal elections.

Time and time again, post-election reviews have proven that our elections are secure and voter fraud is exceedingly rare. This bill is attempting to solve a problem that doesn't exist, all for political games.

Even more concerning is the fact that actions like this undermine the public's confidence in our elections. This is a grave and dangerous issue. Elections are the foundation of our democracy, and the U.S. House of Representatives should be protecting the voice and vote of every American.

HONORING BRENTTAG ON 150
YEARS AS A LEADER IN THE
CHEMICALS INDUSTRY

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brenntag for 150 years of service as a market leader in chemical and ingredients distribution.

Founded in 1874, Brenntag offers a comprehensive portfolio of chemicals and ingredients, market solutions, applications, and regulatory know-how for a wide range of industries. The company has a global footprint, operating in over 70 countries with more than 17,500 employees. This includes sites in the South Louisiana communities of Abbeville, Broussard, and Maurice.

Last year, I toured Brenntag's new cutting-edge facility in Maurice, Louisiana, and participated in a town hall meeting with employees. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with the men and women of Brenntag and see firsthand the important work being carried out at facilities in South Louisiana.

The chemicals industry is essential to modern society. The industry's contributions can be found in every aspect of our lives—our clothing, our electronics, household goods, and many other daily products. While many Americans take this for granted, we should not forget the men and women who keep our supply chains running and make everyday life possible.

Brenntag's employees, like those I met in Maurice, are responsible for the company's status as an industry leader in quality, safety, and innovation. Their hard work is critical to America's continued success and economic prosperity.

On behalf of Louisiana's 3rd District, I commend Brenntag on its 150th anniversary. I offer my gratitude to Brenntag's employees, and I thank them for the vital part they play in America's economy.

RECOGNIZING ANGELINA THURBER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

RECOGNIZING PUBLIX FOR THEIR
REMARKABLE WORK WITH COM-
MUNITY FOOD BANKS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a stellar community partner and to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Lakeland, Florida's own Publix Supermarkets for their efforts to support Florida agriculture and address food insecurity across our communities.

Today Publix will surpass a remarkable milestone in their commitment to help meet their neighbors' needs, donating their 100 millionth pound of produce to community food banks across the Southeast. Since 2020, Publix has partnered with 35 different foodbanks and donated more than 23 million pounds of fresh produce to food banks serving the eight rural communities in my Congressional District.

In the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Florida farmers were facing serious losses and business was drying up due to shutdowns, Publix began buying surplus produce at fair market value. What began as a small idea has given way to an innovative program that makes an irreplaceable impact to our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, if you ask anyone from Florida—and increasingly all over the South—Publix is a fixture of our State's identity and culture. That's not just because shopping there is a pleasure—but because they have proven a consistent dedication to the communities they serve.

I once again commend Publix on this important milestone.

CONGRATULATING CARY FOWLER
ON BEING NAMED A WORLD
FOOD PRIZE LAUREATE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and former Memphis neighbor Cary Fowler, currently serving as the U.S. State Department's Special Envoy for Global Food Security, who was recently named a World Food Prize Laureate at a ceremony at the State Department. Dr. Fowler is perhaps best known as the "father" of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon described as an "inspirational symbol of peace and food security for the entire humanity." The facility on a Norwegian archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole opened in 2008 and provides ultimate security for more than 1.2 million unique crop varieties, the biological foundation of agriculture and the raw material for all future plant breeding. Dr. Fowler is the former Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, an international organization based in Rome cosponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Prior to leading the Crop Diversity Trust, Dr. Fowler was a Professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and a senior staff member of Bioversity International. Earlier, he oversaw the U.N.'s first global assessment of the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. He was responsible for drafting and negotiating the first FAO Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, formally adopted by 150 countries in 1996. Following this, Dr. Fowler twice served as Special Assistant to the Secretary General of the World Food Summit and represented the CGIAR in the multi-year negotiations on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. In 2015, Dr. Fowler was appointed to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development by President Obama. He is a former board member of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and former chair of the Livestock Conservancy. Dr. Fowler is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, has delivered a TED Talk, and is a frequent lecturer at universities around the world. He is the author of *Shattering: Food, Politics and the Loss of Genetic Diversity*, and *Unnatural Selection: Technology, Politics and Plant Evolution*, as well as *Seeds on Ice: Svalbard and the Global Seed Vault*. He is also the recipient of several awards including the Right Livelihood Award, the Vavilov Medal, the Heinz Award, Bette Midler's Wind Beneath My Wings Award, the William Brown Award of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Proctor Medal of the Garden Clubs of America, the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Citizen Leadership, and three honorary doctorates. He is one of two foreign elected members of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. In his spare time, he and his wife, Amy, an heirloom plant conservationist, tend an apple orchard with more than 100 varieties in New York's Hudson River Valley. In their marriage, one plus one equals three. They are a simpatico couple,

loving the Earth and its products. The World Food Prize, awarded since 1986, was the idea of agronomist Norman Borlaug, known as “the father of the Green Revolution,” who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977. Dr. Fowler will share this year’s award with agricultural scientist Dr. Geoffrey Hawtin. Dr. Fowler’s forward-thinking work is protecting humanity itself and helping secure its future, and I congratulate him.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DONALD E. GREENE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a religious leader, humanitarian, and dear friend as he embarks on a new chapter in his life. After six years of exceptional leadership, Reverend Dr. Donald E. Greene just stepped down as the 17th President of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina (BEMCSC).

Dr. Greene is a native of Camden, South Carolina. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Voorhees College, a Master of Ministry from Andersonville Theological Seminary, and an Honorary Doctorate from Morris College. A dedicated student of God’s word, Dr. Greene continuously seeks training at the state and national levels and has had the distinct opportunity to receive training in Oxford, England.

Since 1995, Dr. Greene has served as the pastor of Andrew Chapel Baptist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Under his leadership, the ministry has experienced unprecedented growth, with countless lives being impacted and souls being added to the kingdom. Additionally, he helped the church acquire forty-five acres of land, enabling the construction of a new sanctuary to meet the needs of their growing congregation and, less than three years later, the Andrew Chapel Baptist Church Fellowship Center. Dr. Greene also founded the Andrew Chapel Christian Academy, a fully accredited independent school for pre-K through 6th grade children.

During his tenure as President of BEMCSC, Dr. Greene instituted several outreach initiatives aimed at meeting the needs of the less fortunate. The BEMCSC distributed over 240,000 food boxes to South Carolinians in need during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, has provided over 30,000 hygiene packs to incarcerated individuals, and purchased a food truck in 2021, which they use to prepare and deliver meals to the homeless. Outside of South Carolina, the convention has sponsored 51 children in Ecuador, Haiti, and Kenya.

Dr. Greene has also spearheaded the initiative to share the history of the Black church in South Carolina. In May 2021, a book entitled *Unveiling and Retelling our History* was released. This was followed by the documentary *Our Faith Stories from the Slave Church Balcony*, which details how the Black church emerged out of slavery.

He is married to the former Candice McNeil and together they parented two children, the late Caleb Andrew and Aaron Jacob.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the tremendous achievements of Dr. Donald E. Greene. I thank him for his efforts to better our community and enhance the quality of life in our churches. May his ministry continue to uplift the lives of many.

HONORING TUAN QUOC LE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Tuan Le, an Oakland police officer who was fatally injured in the line of duty on December 29, 2023.

Tuan Quoc Le was born on June 1, 1987, in Saigon, Vietnam as the only son of mother Hanh Thi Hong Le and father Toan Le. He moved to Oakland in 1995 and spent much of his life in the Bay Area, graduating from Oakland High School in 2006 and San Francisco State University in 2013.

It was at Oakland High School that Tuan met the love of his life, Sarah Fung. They were engaged in December 2016, and married on their 12th dating anniversary on August 18, 2018. They had two “fur babies” together, Lola and Bixby.

Tuan Le entered the Oakland Police Academy in 2019, achieving his dream of following in his grandfather’s footsteps. He was sworn in as an Oakland police officer in February of 2020. Tuan was known as a hero, who loved protecting his community above all else.

Tuan was also known among his family and friends as an adventurer. He loved camping, biking, fishing, and traveling. He also loved cars and motorcycles. Tuan Le will be remembered as a hero to the Oakland community, and a kind and welcoming presence to his family and friends.

Tuan Le was preceded in death by his father and grandfather, and is survived by his wife Sarah, mother Hanh, and fur babies Lola and Bixby.

RECOGNIZING SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer, City of Wildwood Police Department Chief Randall Parmer, and the law enforcement officers who keep Sumter County safe every single day.

This week marks the annual observance of Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement, I encourage all Americans to join me not only this week, but every day, in recognizing the honor, courage, and commitment of America’s law enforcement.

Our law enforcement officers are heroes in the community. They keep us safe and are willing to put their lives on the line every day

in the course of their duties. It is impossible to fully express our gratitude or adequately recognize the professionalism of the men and women who voluntarily put their lives on the line for our safety and security. It is with deep respect that we pause today to honor the memory of the heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all the law enforcement officers who bravely and selflessly serve throughout Sumter County. It is an honor to recognize them and all men and women in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING MANDY DIXON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Mandy Dixon, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. 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. Dixon and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING NO LIMITS ACADEMY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past month, it was my great pleasure to visit No Limits Academy in Middle Township of Cape May County, South Jersey. During my visit to NLA, I experienced the great work that the organization is doing by providing an outlet to local children and teenagers that have tough home environments through an afterschool program that lasts all afternoon. This gives students the opportunity to complete their homework with on-site tutors as well as play sports and converse with faith-based counselors. After the kids have completed their homework, there is a two-hour boxing program, showing the kids discipline while also having fun. The No Limits Academy has blessed South Jersey for three years, leaving a positive impact on our youth, and we look forward to many more years to come. God bless the No Limits Academy and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING SAUL ZAPATA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

HONORING REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and incomparable moral and spiritual leader of the Bay Area, Reverend Cecil Williams, who passed away at the age of 94 on April 22, 2024.

Albert Cecil Williams was born September 22, 1929 in San Angelo, Texas. After graduating from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1955, he moved to the Bay Area and became the pastor of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco.

Reverend Williams took over Glide Memorial Church when the congregation numbered only 35 people and transformed it into a world-renowned congregation and nonprofit. He challenged the status quo and sought to create a church that was inclusive of all, forming the Council on Religion and the Homosexual in 1964, bringing religious leaders and LGBTQ activists together. Reverend Williams began performing marriage ceremonies for gay couples decades before gay marriage was legal in California. He also hosted civil rights rallies and welcomed several activists to speak at Glide Memorial Church.

Reverend Williams used his position at the church to serve his community in many ways. Glide opened its own free health clinic, legal clinic, HIV prevention center, and women's health center. He created the Free Meals Program in 1980 and fed three hot meals a day to 2,000 community members in San Francisco.

Reverend Williams continued his work in the community his whole life. After retiring from his role as church pastor in 2000, he remained the Minister of Liberation and CEO of the GLIDE Foundation until just last year.

Cecil Williams is preceded in death by his wife Janice Mirikitani, who shared the title of founder and president of the GLIDE Foundation with Reverend Williams. He is survived by

his son, Albert Williams Jr. and daughter, Kimberly Williams.

Reverend Williams has been a friend and mentor since I was in college. His decades-long leadership of Glide made an enormous impact on our community. I remember taking Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm to Glide and the excitement and love Reverend Williams displayed to her.

His presence in our community will be deeply missed. May he rest in eternal peace and power, reunited with his beloved wife, Janice.

RECOGNIZING POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd and the law enforcement officers who keep Polk County safe every single day.

This week marks the annual observance of Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement, I encourage all Americans to join me not only this week, but every day, in recognizing the honor, courage, and commitment of America's law enforcement.

Our law enforcement officers are heroes in the community. They keep us safe and are willing to put their lives on the line every day in the course of their duties. It is impossible to fully express our gratitude or adequately recognize the professionalism of the men and women who voluntarily put their lives on the line for our safety and security. It is with deep respect that we pause today to honor the memory of the heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all the law enforcement officers who bravely and selflessly serve Polk County. It is an honor to recognize them and all men and women in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING JODY YOUNG

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Jody Young, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. 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. Young and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

CELEBRATING PENNSVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate of the 100th anniversary of the Pennsville Fire Department located in South Jersey. This great fire department began its long history in April of 1924 when Jeer A. English decided to fill a void in the township by establishing a fire department. In 1939, it was recognized that additional emergency crew members were needed so a rescue squad was created and eventually this squad merged with the fire department creating the Fire and Rescue Department we have today. Through the years, the department has ensured that their firefights are as prepared as possible by requiring 180 plus hours of training before the young men and women can put on the uniform. The people of Pennsville always know that when someone from the Pennsville Fire and Rescue Department shows up that they are in good hands. The Fire and Rescue Department also gives back to the community through their Fire Prevention Open House to educate children on safety and by visiting the children's hospital each year to hand out gifts. The Pennsville Fire and Rescue Department has done a great deal of outstanding service to the people of Pennsville, and I have no doubt that they will continue to for the years to come. God bless the Pennsville Fire and Rescue Department and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING NOAH TRASK

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE
SENATOR MIKE PADDEN

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, my heart is full today as I rise to recognize my good friend and former colleague, Washington State Senator Mike Padden, who will retire at the end of the year after serving the people of Spokane Valley and the Fourth Legislative District for 28 years. I'd like to be the first of many to congratulate him on a distinguished career of service and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Senator Padden, a graduate of Spokane's very own Gonzaga Law School, was first elected to the State House in 1980. He quickly earned the trust and confidence of his peers who elected him as their Majority Floor Leader in 1995. Shortly after, Senator Padden stepped away from the State House to accept an appointment as a judge on the Spokane County District Court, a position he would be re-elected to three more times before retiring—the first time—in 2007.

If there's one thing my colleagues should know about Mike, it's that he is a devout public servant who committed himself to putting people before politics. That's why, in 2011, Mike answered the call to serve once again, this time in the State Senate; a position he will hold until the year's end.

For nearly three decades, Senator Padden cultivated a reputation built on principled conservatism. He is a staunch defender of life, a steadfast advocate for stronger public safety, and a fierce promoter of everything Eastern Washington has to offer. While serving in various leadership roles on both the House and Senate Law and Justice Committees, Mike made it a top priority to build relationships with his colleagues across the aisle to pass meaningful legislation and improve lives.

Thanks to his dogged determination and commitment to delivering results, he successfully strengthened laws around DUI convictions, expanded access to housing by reducing barriers to condominium construction, and provided critical support to businesses trying to help their employees invest in the company's future. These are just a few of his most recent legislative achievements from a long career of service that will be remembered for years to come.

In addition to serving in the State Senate, Mike has spent the past six years on his parish council, volunteers for Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels, is a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus, and acts as a state commissioner—and one time Spokane chapter president—for American Legion Baseball.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mike's committed service to his community and our great state. He has been a tremendous advocate for those he has represented, and as he looks ahead to his well-deserved retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his almost three decades of devotion and public service. The best is yet to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to make the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 179; NAY on Roll Call No. 180; NAY on Roll Call No. 181; NAY on Roll Call No. 182; YEA on Roll Call No. 183; NAY on Roll Call No. 184; NAY on Roll Call No. 185; and YEA on Roll Call No. 186.

HONORING MONIQUE KOLTERMAN

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mrs. Monique Kolterman of St. Veronica Catholic School who is an extraordinary educator very selflessly dedicated to the instruction and guidance of children during one of the most dynamic periods of their lives.

Throughout her career as an elementary school teacher, Mrs. Kolterman has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless young men and women as they advance into the next chapter of their academic career.

In 2009, Mrs. Kolterman joined the Diocese of Arlington as an instructional aide at the Nativity Catholic School in Burke. She remained there until 2012. Three years later, she was hired at St. Veronica Catholic School as an instructional assistant for the second grade. By 2019, she began her tenure as a lead teacher for the fifth grade.

Prior to her time in Arlington, Monique held various teaching positions throughout Ohio. There, she was a social studies teacher, a middle school English teacher, a CCD teacher and eucharist minister, a substitute teacher for French courses, and a learning resource assistant.

For years, Monique has served children from all over the United States with tremendous passion. As the teacher for Josiah and Elijah Hawatmeh, who are the nephews of my Chief of Staff, Nicola Hawatmeh, Mrs. Kolterman has left a lasting impression not only on their lives, but on the countless children she has influenced throughout her outstanding career.

Mr. Speaker, I join the wider St. Veronica community in thanking Mrs. Kolterman for her tireless commitment to her students and their families. With National Teacher Appreciation week fresh in our hearts, I am proud to honor her and all the men and women who dedicate their lives to educating the next generation.

HONORING ALFREDA HELEN
ABBOTT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of long-time

community activist, Alfreda Helen Abbott, who passed away at the age of 92 on March 2, 2024, in Oakland.

Alfreda was born on March 8, 1931, and raised in Oakland, graduating from Oakland High School in 1949 and with her Bachelor of Arts from UC Berkeley some years later.

After completing her degree, she married Robert P. Abbott on June 6, 1954. They were married for 56 years before Robert passed away in 2010.

Alfreda was an avid traveler, who had visited six continents. Along with traveling, she enjoyed caring for her plants, spending time with family, fine dining, and public service.

Her love for public service manifested in her professional life, where she served as a Deputy Public Officer for Alameda County and a Group Counselor for the Social Service Bureau. She was also an original member of the Oakland Black Caucus in the 1960s. Alfreda was one of the founding members of the Black Women Organized for Political Action and continued to serve on the state board for several years.

Alfreda had a long career in the government, serving as an Advisor and Field Representative for California State Senator Nicholas Petris for over 30 years. Upon her retirement from Senator Petris' office, she returned to local government to serve as Chief of Staff for Oakland City Council member Dezie Woods-Jones.

Alfreda always stayed active in her community, serving on the Oakland Unified School Board, the Oakland Planning Commission, the Bay Area Urban League, the NAACP, the Black Educators Association, the California Democratic Party, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and the Board of Directors of the Museum Association. I honor Alfreda Abbott's long-standing commitment to community activism in Oakland and beyond.

Alfreda Helen Abbott is survived by her two sons, Ross Abbott and Brian Abbott, one "daughter-in-love", Carolyn Abbott, two Goddaughters, Michelle Randle and Carla Kennedy, and a grandson, Kamal Kennedy, along with a host of cousins.

RECOGNIZING JIMMIE LEE
RODGERS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Jimmie Lee Rodgers who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. 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. Rodgers and his fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, one month that is commonly and unfortunately overlooked in our country is Jewish American Heritage Month. As we witness anti-Semitism rise across the country, it is more important now more than ever that we recognize the great accomplishments that Jewish Americans have contributed to the United States and the world. Jewish Americans have thrived in our great nation for generations by serving honorably in the government and military, winning Nobel prizes, leading universities and corporations, and serving on the Supreme Court as symbols of Justice. In South Jersey, it is no different as we boast of many successful Jewish authors, physicists, entrepreneurs, and a former Secretary of Homeland Security. We are proudly home to over 200,000 Jewish Americans so join me as we honor this great group of individuals by celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month. God bless our Jewish Americans, God bless Israel, and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING CONNOR DELO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY,
FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Orange County Sheriff John Mina, City of Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley, City of Ocoee Police Chief

Vincent Ogburn, City of Winter Garden Police Chief Steve Graham, Town of Oakland Police Chief Floyd Mitchell, Town of Windermere Police Chief David Ogden and all the law enforcement officers who keep Orange County safe every single day.

This week marks the annual observance of Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement, I encourage all Americans to join me not only this week, but every day, in recognizing the honor, courage, and commitment of America's law enforcement.

Our law enforcement officers are heroes in the community. They keep us safe and are willing to put their lives on the line every day in the course of their duties. It is impossible to fully express our gratitude or adequately recognize the professionalism of the men and women who voluntarily put their lives on the line for our safety and security. It is with deep respect that we pause today to honor the memory of the heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all the law enforcement officers who bravely and selflessly serve throughout Orange County. It is an honor to recognize them and all men and women in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING
MR. WEARLEY'S RETIREMENT

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the recent retirement of a remarkable Montanan, Mr. Milford Wearley, who served his community and dedicated years of his life to training and teaching future farmers and ranchers across Montana.

After graduating from Choteau High School in 1971, Mr. Wearley attended Montana State University in Bozeman, where he later graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science and a Master's degree in Agricultural Education.

Upon graduation, Mr. Wearley chose to pursue his career in training and educating students about Agriculture as he served as an FFA Advisor at Malta High School in 1981. Since then, Mr. Wearley's passion for teaching and training the next generation of farmers in Montana flourished. After three years in Malta, Mr. Wearley moved to Choteau to continue his career and passion for teaching, where he stayed until recently retiring.

Agriculture isn't just an industry in Montana, it's our way of life, and thanks to Mr. Wearley's lifelong dedication to training, teaching, and advising aspiring farmers, ranchers, and students, our state is stronger, and our agricultural industry is more resilient.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Wearley's 40 years of service and his impact while instructing the next generation of farmers and ranchers across the Treasure State.

RECOGNIZING STEPHANIE PETERS
FOR 15 YEARS WITH MICROSOFT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Stephanie Peters for over thirty-five years of work in corporate social responsibility, and to congratulate her on her retirement as one of Microsoft's Directors of Federal Government Affairs for the House of Representatives.

Throughout her 15 years with Microsoft, Stephanie has been instrumental in guiding and evolving the company's public policy practice. She was responsible for engaging Democrats in the House of Representatives to advance a wide range of priorities for Microsoft, including supply chain management, national security, and intellectual property matters.

While Stephanie's service to Microsoft is commendable on its own, her prior experience and achievements with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and Patton Boggs LLP are equally worthy of praise and recognition.

Thanks to her unmatched combination of work ethic and subject matter expertise, House Democrats were able to draft and pass the landmark Digital Millennium Copyright Act, as well as navigate complex immigration reform negotiations throughout the late 1990s. Moreover, her legal work on international issues ranging from corporate global sustainability to pro-bono representation of refugees is a testament to her commitment to building a better world and helping others advance.

From her service on the Boards of Directors for organizations like the Ohio State University Alumni Association to her co-founding of DC Jazz Fest, Stephanie's desire to foster positive community is evident in every personal and professional effort she embarks on. Her mentorship to others and dedication to lifting as she climbs has left an indelible mark on everyone in her path, and they will continue leaving a positive impact on her community and our country for years to come.

HONORING LOIS A. MURELL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lois A. Parish Murell, who passed away at the age of 103 on April 8, 2024.

Lois was born on November 20, 1920, in El Paso, Texas to parents William C. Parish and Willie C. Parish. She attended Douglass High School and graduated from Austin Tillitson College with a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics.

She met her husband, John Melvyn Murell while teaching, and moved with him from Texas to Oakland, California. They later settled in their dream home that they built in Windsor, California.

Lois and Melvyn were prominent businesspeople in the Bay Area. Lois opened a high-end gift shop called "Hi Lite Décor" on

Lakeshore Boulevard in Oakland and became the first Black businessowner in the Lakeshore shopping area. Together, Lois and Melvyn founded Oakland Federal Savings and Loan, the first Black-owned savings and loan company in Oakland. They also owned apartment buildings throughout the East Bay and a nightclub in Richmond, California.

"Auntie Lois" was known for being a stylish dresser, great dancer, and the best cook. She loved to travel and spent many days taking trips with her friends in her senior travel group. She was known for being thrifty and instilled that quality in her nieces, encouraging us to save and invest our money to be independent women.

She delighted in meeting her cousins, the Parrishes, later in life after she turned 100. Her family stories were engaging, and her memory was keen and sharp.

Lois is preceded in death by her parents William C. Parish and Willie C. Parish and her sisters Juanita A. Franklin and Mildred P. Massey. She is survived by her loving nieces Mildred Whitfield, Beverly Hardy, and me, along with several great and great-great nephews and nieces, and a host of extended family and friends.

Auntie Lois was a phenomenal woman and a loving Auntie who, despite having no children, was like a second mother to all of us. She will be greatly missed by all who had the honor of knowing her, especially those who were part of her family. May she rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MARTELL SWAIN,
JR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service and patriotism of one of my constituents, Martell Swain, Jr. (Master Sergeant Retired), who enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17 in 1961. MSgT Swain's early training in the Army was in Infantry. In 1963, he was assigned to a unit that eventually became the famous Air Calvary Division. A year later, the status of his entire Brigade was changed to Airborne. All troops were required to become Paratroopers to remain with this unit. It was during this time he was promoted to Sergeant. In July of 1965 the entire Division was ordered to Vietnam by our President. This was the first Division to go to Vietnam as a unit. It was not the last. Serving two tours in Vietnam, Sergeant Swain was involved in extremely heavy combat, earning the coveted Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star with "V" for Valor, Meritorious Service Medal, numerous Air Medals, 2 Army Commendation Medals, 2 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal, 2 Presidential Unit Citations, and other awards and medals.

Despite the fact that MSgT Swain never earned his high school diploma, he participated in many educational opportunities available through the military and became an instructor for Red Eye Air Defense Missile Systems and Anti-Tank Systems. Sergeant First Class Swain attended Drill Instructor School and served in that capacity for three years in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His last assign-

ment was as a Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor at Syracuse University, preparing Cadets for active duty as officers in the United States Army. While there, he was promoted to Master Sergeant. MSgT retired after 23 years of faithful service. In 2022 Master Sergeant (Retired) Swain was honored by the National Infantry Association with induction into the Order of Saint Maurice in the rank of Centurion. MSgT Swain will be presented with an honorary high school diploma from a high school in Citrus County this year. With immense gratitude, we congratulate him on this important honor and thank him for his many years of distinguished service to our country.

RECOGNIZING JAMES SCALICE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past month, it was my honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an incredible young man, James Scalice. James has learned an incredible amount through the merit badge program earning 41 total badges in subjects such as Life Skills, Business, and Science. Within his troop, this young man has developed leadership skills through elected positions and has learned the value of serving his community by participating in countless hours of service to his church and community. He has displayed his love for God by earning two religious emblems including "Pope Pius the twelfth" from the Catholic Diocese of Camden. With a deep love for his country and great respect for veterans, James decided to help out the American Legion Post 28 in Absecon, South Jersey for his Eagle Scout project.

RECOGNIZING GABRIEL TZINTZUN

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

RECOGNIZING ERNEST SCANGO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service and patriot-

ism of one of my constituents, Ernest Scango. Mr. Scango was born on January 8, 1923 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was drafted into the United States Army on March 5, 1943. After training at Fort Benning, Ernest joined the 551st Paratroop Infantry Battalion. As a Parachutist and Rifleman, Ernest participated in the major battles taking place in France. He took part in Operation Dragoon which was designed to secure the southern coast of France and the critical Mediterranean ports while forcing the Germans to open a second front while facing the D-Day invasion in Normandy under Operation Overlord. Then, he subsequently re-deployed and took part in the Ardennes Offensive and Rhineland campaigns which were critical to ending war in Europe.

Today, Mr. Scango lives in Homosassa, Florida where he just celebrated his 102nd birthday. This month, he is receiving the distinguished insignia of "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" ("Knight in the Legion of Honor") from the French government. As a Member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Scango and his fellow brothers and sisters-in-arms demonstrated incredible bravery and skill as they fought to save the world from the evils of Nazism, hatred, and genocide. We all owe this hero a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid. Today and always, we remember his patriotism and courageous actions. We must honor his service and sacrifice by continuing to protect the sacred values of freedom he fought so hard to defend.

RECOGNIZING IGA NEPHROPATHY
DAY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to again recognize May 14th as IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day. This year, I'd also like to recognize that 2024 represents the IgA Nephropathy Foundation's 20th anniversary. For twenty years, this organization has worked on behalf of all families affected by IgA Nephropathy (IgAN), a rare genetic autoimmune disease which affects over 150,000 people a year in the United States.

IgAN is the most common form of glomerulonephritis, which is the leading cause of kidney disease after diabetes and hypertension. It is particularly devastating because while it can present at any age, it most often affects younger Americans in their 20s and 30s when many are considering starting a family. About half of those affected by IgAN will go on to develop end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) which leads to dialysis, transplant, or death. What makes IgAN particularly insidious is that it can recur in a transplanted kidney. Unfortunately, there are usually little or no immediate signs and symptoms and patients are often not diagnosed until their kidneys are already damaged, or they "crash into dialysis" in an emergency room.

This year, I include in the RECORD a letter which was sent to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the impact of rare kidney disease as a health equity issue for the Asian American communities. The letter, which was signed by twelve organizations ranging from rare kidney disease patient

groups, national AANHPI organizations, national nephrology foundations, and key healthcare providers across the country, urged raising awareness and improving outcomes in rare kidney disease in the disproportionately impact Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities. Asian populations have the higher proportion of IgAN at 40–50 percent. This powerful letter cites that Asian Americans are at several times higher risk of IgAN than white Americans and is a significant driver of ESKD. The letter also calls attention to successful rare kidney disease screening programs used in other countries which have reduced the rates of ESKD for people under 20 by about 50 percent. Programs show that early intervention and screening can have a big impact.

As I noted last year, novel therapies to treat IgAN have been recently approved and it is my understanding that numerous clinical trials are underway with more therapies are on track for FDA review later this year and 2025. These therapies give families hope and are already helping promote kidney health and delay the progression to dialysis or transplant for thousands of people.

I once again want to thank the IgA Nephropathy Foundation and note that Mary Schneider from Venice in my district remains a Board member of this outstanding organization. I understand that the IgAN Foundation is hosting an Advocacy Day this year, and hope that it is a major success. On this day, May 14, 2024, we honor all families facing this challenging disease and recognize IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day.

APRIL 12, 2024.

Re Request to Raise Awareness and Improve Outcomes for Rare Kidney Disease in AA and NHPI Communities.

Hon. Secretary XAVIER BECERRA,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY BECERRA: We are writing to urge you to take action beginning this May to address the high rates of rare kidney diseases (RKD), including IgA Nephropathy (IgAN), as a significant health equity challenge for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities in the United States.

We recognize and appreciate that the Biden Administration has placed equity and the needs of underserved communities at the center of all of its efforts, including at HHS Given your role as Co-Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, we wanted to emphasize the opportunities presented by the rapidly changing treatment and care paradigm in RKD, including IgAN, which has the potential to improve outcomes for patients, particularly within the AA and NHPI communities. Taking action now can ensure that the AA and NHPI communities are not left behind as what has been called a "golden age" of research in RKD begins to yield advances in care and treatment, while also preventing significant costs for American's healthcare system, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Asian Americans are at several times higher risk of IgAN than white Americans. In one global study, among patients who had renal biopsies with glomerulonephritis—the most common cause of kidney disease in the United States following hypertension and diabetes—Asian populations have the highest proportion of IgAN, at 40–50 percents. In chronic kidney disease, Asian patients have both worse prognosis than white patients and increased risk of progression to end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

While it is a rare disease in the United States, IgAN is the most common form of chronic glomerulonephritis, a significant driver of ESRD. IgAN can be especially devastating because onset often begins when patients are in their twenties or thirties, potentially leading to kidney failure much earlier in life than other causes of ESRD.

Thankfully, we now have effective tools to deploy, including cost-effective urinalysis and two new Food and Drug Administration-approved therapies to address IgAN, with over 60 more clinical trials underway in IgAN, FSGS, C3G, Minimal Change Disease, and others.

However, many barriers to care remain for AA and NHPI communities, from lack of patient and provider awareness of RKD and kidney disease generally, to cultural and linguistic barriers unique to the AA and NHPI communities. Evidence shows that interventions can be cost-effective and transformative, with a recent paper showing a universal urinalysis program in Japan reduced ESRD rates among people under 20 by nearly 50 percent.

We urge you to increase awareness of rare kidney diseases, including IgAN, as a health equity challenge for the AA and NHPI communities, and to take further steps to mitigate current barriers to screening, diagnosis, and treatment. The upcoming Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May and IgAN Awareness Day on May 14 represent an opportunity to initiate these critical efforts.

We look forward to partnering with you to improve the health and well-being of the AA and NHPI communities and tackling the challenge of RKD together.

Sincerely,

Juliet K. Choi, President & CEO, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

Yanlin Wang, M.D., Ph.D., FASN, President, Chinese American Society of Nephrology.

Bonnie Schneider, Founder & Executive Director, IgAN Foundation.

Josh Tarnoff, CEO, NephCure Kidney International.

Raymond Hsu, MD, MAS, School of Medicine, University of California-San Francisco.

Kevin Longino, CEO, National Kidney Foundation.

Jenifer Ngo Waldrop, Executive Director, Rare Disease Diversity Coalition.

Fahmeedah Kamal, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Stanford University Medicine.

LaVarne Burton, President and CEO, American Kidney Fund.

Li-Li Hsiao, MD, Ph.D., Founder, Kidney Disease Screening and Awareness Program (KDSAP), Harvard Medical School.

Shikha Wadhvani, MD, MS, FASN, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University.

Gary A. Puckrein, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, National Minority Quality Forum.

RECOGNIZING CAPE MAY MUSEUMS, ARTS, CULTURE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the Cape May MAC annual Volunteer Appreciation reception last Tuesday to meet with some great people. This organization has been a champion of the arts, cultures, and history that have taken place in Cape May County, South Jersey since its

founding in 1970. Since that time, it has evolved Cape May from a beach resort to the United States' top Victorian theme destination. MAC has been able to do this by bringing to life the Victorian lifestyle of the 19th century by providing several activities that visitors can participate in. These include several tours whether it be a guided walking tour, golf-cart tour, or a hybrid tour incorporating both the historic houses of the district and the three historical sites MAC has. These historic sites include the Erlen Physick Estate built in 1879, the Cape May Lighthouse which has been in use since 1859, and the Fire Control Tower No. 23, a restored 1942 coastal artillery lookout tower from World War II. It was an honor to have the opportunity to visit this extraordinary organization that does so much for its community and tells the story of 19th century South Jersey so well. God bless Cape May MAC and God Bless the United States of America.

SUPPORTING THE YOUTH POISONING PROTECTION ACT

HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that will prevent deadly chemicals from falling into the hands of children, our Youth Poisoning Protection Act.

It's a parent's worst nightmare: a faceless stranger over the internet teaching your child how to take their own life, and your child, in a moment of vulnerability, listening to them.

That's exactly what happened to Kristine Jonsson, a vibrant sixteen-year-old from Hilliard, Ohio whose life was cut tragically short in September 2020 Kristine was open with her parents about her mental health struggles, but it was behind closed doors on an internet forum that she learned about sodium nitrite.

With the coaching of strangers online, Kristine was able to purchase sodium nitrite on Amazon.com and get it shipped to her front door, all without the knowledge of her parents.

Sodium nitrite is a chemical used in the preservation of meat and fish, which in high concentrations is deadly if ingested. In fact, one spoonful of the chemical is one hundred times more lethal than other poisons. High concentrations of some chemicals can be harmful if used improperly, which is why they are usually highly regulated or banned for sale to consumers.

Thanks to online forums like the one Kristine saw, the number of suicide deaths using sodium nitrite is steadily rising. In recent years, the share of sodium nitrite usage as a method of self-poisoning has grown nine times over.

By passing this bill, we can save lives.

The Youth Poisoning Protection Act would prevent the commercial sale of highly-concentrated sodium nitrite, so it can never fall into the hands of a vulnerable young person.

I want to thank my colleague, Rep. TRAHAN of Massachusetts, as well as Senators J.D. VANCE of Ohio and TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois for partnering with us in this important effort.

With their support and yours, we are one step closer to preventing these senseless tragedies.

HONORING CHRIS IGLESIAS, CEO
OF THE UNITY COUNCIL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Mr. Chris Iglesias as he celebrates his 10-year tenure as Chief Executive Officer of The Unity Council, a non-profit that supports social equity initiatives in Oakland, California. In this role, he has led a long-standing organization that is dedicated to improving Oakland's Fruitvale District and the lives of residents who live within it, including seniors, children, communities of color, small business owners, and immigrants. The work of The Unity Council has proved invaluable in bettering the lives of the residents of the largest Latino neighborhood in the Bay Area.

Mr. Iglesias has many accomplishments that prove his dedication bettering the community and building a more vibrant Fruitvale. One of his accomplishments includes securing \$58 million to fund units of affordable housing in the Fruitvale neighborhood. Additionally, he has expanded Bay Area social equity programs, including creating Oakland's Latino Men & Boys program in partnership with Oakland Unified School District and the Oakland Mayor's office and supporting The Unity Council's early education programs in partnership with the city's Early/Head Start Program for early education.

Chris Iglesias has a long history of supporting the people of California and the larger Bay Area. He was previously a Senior Advisor to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, a Director of Regional Workforce Initiatives at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and an Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. He is also the founding director of CityBuild, a construction workforce program in San Francisco that provides workforce trainings for residents. Along with serving as CEO of The Unity Council, Iglesias also serves on the Oakland Thrives Leadership Council as well as the Job and Housing Coalition.

I am happy to congratulate Chris Iglesias on his decade of service, and to thank him for his dedication to underserved communities in the city of Oakland. His impact and legacy will resonate with The Unity Council and the entire community of Fruitvale for years to come. I look forward to seeing this organization's continued growth under Mr. Iglesias' strong leadership. Congratulations to Mr. Iglesias on this significant milestone, and here's to many more years of inspiring leadership.

RECOGNIZING AMANDA RUD

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Amanda Rud who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of

hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. 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. Rud and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT TAYLOR

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

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

HONORING TROY CLARKSON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Troy Clarkson as he receives the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce 2024 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

Raised in Falmouth, Massachusetts, Clarkson has always had a strong commitment to supporting and bettering the lives of his fellow Falmouth residents. After graduating from Falmouth High School in 1986, Clarkson attended Boston College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in political science. Clarkson then returned to Falmouth, and at the age of 24, was the youngest person to be voted to the Town of Falmouth Select Board.

Clarkson served on the Select Board for 12 years before later taking on the role of Town Manager for the Town of Bridgewater followed by the Town of Hanover. With extensive experience working in municipal government and a master's degree in public administration from Bridgewater State University, Clarkson was named the City of Brockton's Chief Financial Officer in 2019, a role that he continues to work in today.

Throughout his career, Clarkson has always remained involved in his hometown and the local Cape Cod community. Clarkson serves

on the Falmouth Housing Trust Board and is the President of Carousel of Light, Inc. as well as the founder and President of the Sober Living Foundation. Clarkson has also worked with several local organizations over the years, including the Falmouth Commodores, Falmouth Education Foundation, Falmouth Road Race, Falmouth Village Association, Rotary Club of Falmouth, and Falmouth Community Television. Additionally, Clarkson writes a column for the Falmouth Enterprise on the local issues impacting the community and promotes collaboration and understanding through his writing.

On May 14, 2024, the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce will hold its 110th Annual Meeting and Award Dinner, where Clarkson will be honored as the 2024 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. When it came time for the chamber to decide who to name the Outstanding Citizen of the Year, the vote for Clarkson was unanimous. Clarkson's lifetime of advocacy and dedication to the Falmouth community serves as an example to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Troy Clarkson, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his continuous and unwavering commitment to the Town of Falmouth over the years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ZACH
POLETT, THE 'ORGANIZER'S OR-
GANIZER'

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and achievements of Zach Polett, one of our Nation's greatest recent community organizers. A humble and unassuming figure, Zach was a brilliant political strategist and dedicated activist who—among other accomplishments—helped organize the first health care workers' union in the South, pass state-wide minimum wage and campaign finance ballot initiatives, design nationwide voter registration programs and cultivate a new generation of community activists. The loss of Zach in September 2023 has been deeply felt by those fighting for social justice across the country.

The soul of our democracy is sustained by people like Zach, who believe in the fundamental dignity of every human being and the power of collective action to address our most pressing challenges. Though active in many social movements in college to oppose the Vietnam War and support the Civil Rights Movement, Zach originally set out to study medicine at Harvard University and Stanford Medical School. It turns out that his career as an organizer wouldn't stray too far from his original intent. Instead of treating people, Zach treated the structural ills that afflict our communities. He set out to heal the world.

After medical school, Zach moved to Little Rock for an internship with a small nonprofit called Arkansas Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). That internship would change his life and the lives of so many others. Through ACORN, Zach quickly found his calling to help Americans from all walks of life channel their desire for change into community power. Zach was uniquely talented in the

nuts and bolts of organizing, like forging strong connections with people from all walks of life, formulating the hard-nosed political strategy required to win change and managing the administrative tedium essential to the functioning of any organization. His talents were recognized when he was asked to establish ACORN's activities in Louisiana, California and Florida. He helped organize the South's first union of health care workers. He oversaw Project Vote's campaign to register millions of voters. And he created a strategy to pass a ballot initiative raising the minimum wage for hardworking Arkansans in 2014. When he eventually served as Senior Vice President of the Public Interest Network, Zach refused to leave his adopted home state because of his commitment to the people of Arkansas.

Zach met the love of his life, Mary Mayeaux, while searching for ACORN volunteers in Louisiana. He and Mary raised their two sons Mark and David in Little Rock, and became the loving grandparents of Kian, Luka, Luna, and Vera. Zach's family and his chosen family of progressive organizers across America continue to feel the pain of his loss as a husband, father, grandfather, and leader. In his honor, we must continue his life's work to defend our democracy, build power from the ground up and steer our course towards a freer and more just future for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week I mistakenly voted Yea on Roll Call No. 191, passage of H.R. 2925, the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2024. I intended to vote Nay. I regret the error.

I oppose H.R. 2925 and I voted against this legislation on February 6, 2024 in the House Natural Resources Committee.

TRIBUTE TO THE USS HORNET CV-12 ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the USS *Hornet* CV-12, a ship served the US Navy during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The predecessor aircraft carrier, USS *Hornet* CV-8 was known as "Shangri-La", the mysterious base from which Lt. Colonel James "Jimmy" Doolittle led the Doolittle Raiders, 21 B-25 bombers, on the Tokyo Raid on April 18, 1942.

In World War II, during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, on October 26, 1942, the USS *Hornet* CV-8, was attacked and sunk by Japanese dive bomber and torpedo planes with the loss of 140 of her 2,200 sailors. 21 aircraft went down with the ship.

A new Essex-class carrier was commissioned the USS *Hornet* CV-12 on November 29, 1943, 80 years ago.

The USS *Hornet* CV-12 joined the Pacific Fleet in 1944. Her first battle was a strike on the Palau Islands on March 30th 1944. After this, the USS *Hornet* CV-12 participated in almost every major naval engagement in the Pacific for the rest of the war, including the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the invasion of the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

In WWII, in 18 months of combat operations, the aircraft that served on the USS *Hornet* CV-12 destroyed more Japanese aircraft than any other aircraft carrier—668 Japanese planes shot down, 742 Japanese planes destroyed on the ground, 1,269,710 tons of enemy ships sunk or heavily damaged. 73 ships sunk, 37 probable, and 413 damaged.

The USS *Hornet* CVS-12 served 3 tours at Yankee Station during the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

On July 24th, 1969, the USS *Hornet* CV-12 was the recovery ship for the Apollo 11 astronauts, hosting President Nixon as he welcomed back the first men to ever walk on the Moon.

On November 24th, 1969, the USS *Hornet* CVS-12 recovered the Apollo 12 astronauts.

The USS *Hornet* CVS-12 was decommissioned on June 30, 1970.

On her way to the scrapyard, the USS *Hornet* CVS-12 was saved and turned into a floating museum. She opened her doors on October 17, 1998, 25 years ago as the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum at the former Alameda Naval Air Station in Alameda, California.

The USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum now projects its power as an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the largest museum, research, and educational facility in the world.

Please join me as I salute the sailors who served on the USS *Hornet* CVS-12. I also thank those who now use the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum and its collections, exhibitions, and educational programming to promote awareness and understanding of history, science, technology, and service as a Smithsonian Affiliate. This historic ship has the unique opportunity to live on, welcoming visitors from across the country to learn about its 80-year legacy.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA MANUEL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Barbara Manuel, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. 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. Manuel and her fellow board members have made a profoundly posi-

tive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING GREY VALDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

Grey has overcome many challenges along their journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Grey, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Grey'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 Grey Valdez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING MAJOR VICTORIA C. MAYNARD

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Victoria Maynard for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow. Major Maynard will soon transition from the Army Congressional Budget Liaison Office to serve as a Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A native of Kentucky, Major Maynard was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps from the Morehead State University ROTC program. She earned a bachelor's degree in Geography from Morehead State University and a master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Major Maynard has served in a broad range of assignments during her 14 years as an Army officer, including Platoon Leader and Battalion S6 in the 214th Fires Brigade at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Company Commander and Battalion S6 in the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky; a joint planner for NATO in Brunssum, Netherlands; Communications OIC to the USFOR-A Commander; and a Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in the 102nd Signal Battalion in Wiesbaden, Germany.

She has also served two combat tours in Afghanistan and one humanitarian tour in Haiti.

I had the privilege of working directly with Tori who served as a fellow in my Capitol Hill office in 2022 as well as an Army Liaison this past year. Her professionalism, performance, and commitment to the mission are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and made a lasting impression on both Members of the United States Congress and their staff. Throughout her career, Major Maynard has made a positive impact on soldiers, peers and superiors alike.

On a personal level, I had the honor of meeting Major Maynard's husband, who, as with all American military families, shares her selfless commitment to our country. I want to thank her husband, Brian, for the sacrifices he has made in supporting Tori's service to our country as well as his own as an Army Officer.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Maynard during the second session of the 117th Congress. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment and passion for the Army profession. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Major Maynard for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she continues her service in the United States Army.

CELEBRATING BERKELEY HEIGHTS
POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Berkeley Heights Police Department as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year.

The Berkeley Heights Police Department was established in 1924 with Chief Dominick Russo serving as the Township's first full-time police officer. A hundred years later, the department consists of 28 full-time officers and support staff committed to protecting the Berkeley Heights community and upholding the department's history and values. Their dedicated efforts have made Berkeley Heights one of New Jersey's most consistently safe municipalities.

I am proud that the 7th District is home to such committed individuals like the officers and staff of the Berkeley Heights Police Department. As the Police Department enters a new era in its history, I congratulate all who have helped it reach this notable milestone.

HONORING FIVE LAFAYETTE PO-
LICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
FOR HEROIC ACTION IN THE
LINE OF DUTY

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor five members of the Lafayette Police Department (LPD) for heroic actions in the line of duty.

For their united display of valor, Corporal Adam Bradford, Corporal Maverick Morvant, Officer Hali Bradford, Officer Alan Cortez, and Officer Raynard Ford have earned their designation as 2024 recipients of the National Association of Police Organizations' "TOP COP" award.

In the early morning of August 5, 2023, LPD Officers Bradford, Cortez, and Ford responded to a "Disturbance in Progress" call. As they arrived on scene, the officers heard a woman cry for help from within the residence. While attempting entry, the perpetrator forced the

door shut. Officer Ford promptly breached the door, discovering a young woman and two children, who the officers quickly evacuated. The perpetrator, who had retreated deeper into the residence, reappeared and opened fire on the officers without warning. Officer Bradford was targeted by the perpetrator, incurring injuries that left her paralyzed from the waist-down. Officers Cortez and Ford immediately returned fire with their service weapons, striking the perpetrator multiple times. Meanwhile, Officer Cortez stepped forward to draw fire from Officer Bradford, sustaining gunshot wounds in the process.

While bleeding heavily and fighting to remain conscious, Officer Bradford dutifully withdrew from the line of fire, drew her service weapon, and communicated her condition to her colleagues. Still under fire, Officer Ford left cover and rushed to Officer Bradford's aid, dragging her further to safety. LPD Corporal Bradford and Corporal Morvant then arrived on scene, assuming aid of Officer Bradford. With a determination that she could not wait for an ambulance, they placed Officer Bradford in a service vehicle. As Corporal Morvant drove, Corporal Bradford administered first aid. They reached a nearby hospital in just three minutes, where she underwent lifesaving surgery.

This lifesaving outcome, despite extraordinarily adverse circumstances, is a credit to the heroism, professionalism, and teamwork of these five police officers. Scripture tells us, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Without hesitation, these officers demonstrated such a commitment, in defense of our community and one other. This is emblematic of the very finest of the Thin Blue Line.

On behalf of Louisiana's 3rd District, I ask the blessings of our Lord upon Corporal Bradford, Corporal Morvant, Officer Bradford, Officer Cortez, and Officer Ford for their service and sacrifice. God bless them one and all.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE USS HORNET SEA,
AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum in Alameda, California. The USS *Hornet* is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, dedicated to the increase and diffusion of knowledge.

The museum is housed in the aircraft carrier USS *Hornet*, CV-12 which was part of the U.S. Navy's offensive force in the Pacific theater during World War II. Along with the anniversary of the museum, we are also celebrating the 80th anniversary of the commissioning of this historic ship. The USS *Hornet* saw fierce action during World War II, as well as serving in the Korean and Vietnam wars. The ship was decommissioned in 1970 and turned into a museum, which first opened in 1998.

The ship is moored permanently at the former Alameda Naval Air Station in Alameda,

California, overlooking the San Francisco Bay. Visitors can see how the crew ate, lived, slept, and worked during their time aboard the ship.

Visitors can explore the flight deck, hangar deck, and first deck on self-guided tours. Documented tours take visitors to the ship's navigation and flight deck control areas, as well as into engineering spaces that hold two of the four ship's propulsion turbines.

In addition to the historic ship itself, there are vintage military aircraft on display, including exhibits from NASA's Apollo missions 11 and 12. The *Hornet* served as the primary recovery ship for Apollo 11, picking up astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins upon their return from the moon following their splashdown in the Pacific Ocean. The Apollo Block 1 Command Module is on a special loan from Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

The *Hornet* also has a STEM to Stern Program, where students can learn how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics apply to the operational functions of a World War II aircraft carrier. This program offers a perspective on modern technology by offering a comparison to the past.

On June 1, 2017, the Smithsonian Institution added the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum as an affiliate. This allowed the *Hornet* to share objects for display and work together to enhance the experience of museumgoers.

The USS *Hornet* Museum is now one of 216 organizations in 46 states, as well as Puerto Rico and Panama, that are part of the Smithsonian's affiliate program. The affiliate program will allow the *Hornet* to share objects for display, facilitate co-branding, and professional development of staff.

Please join me as I recognize the 25th anniversary of this beloved museum, as well as the staff and volunteers who serve on it. This Veteran's Day, the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum will open its doors to members of the community for free in honor of the occasion. Its collections, exhibitions, and educational programming will promote awareness and understanding of history, science, technology, and service as a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIE WILLIAMS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Christie Williams, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. 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. Williams and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING KYRII PETRALIA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

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

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN ORATORIO CHOIR ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the members and supporters of the New Haven Oratorio Choir as they mark the 60th Anniversary of this exceptional organization.

The New Haven Oratorio Choir is a community-based, auditioned chamber choir whose mission is to provide the New Haven region with unique and intimate choral performances, a repertoire chosen to inspire and inform performers and audiences alike. Indeed, the celebration of their 60th Anniversary includes an upcoming performance entitled "Blossoms, Beasts, and Birds: Songs About Nature" which will feature selections from renowned composers such as Britten, Copland, Whitacre, Gibbons, Price, and others.

The choir was founded in 1963 when Allen Wolbrink, the then music director of the Church of the Redeemer, wanted to expand its Senior Choir. He did so by inviting singers from the larger community to join with the goal of performing larger works. At the time, the New Haven Chorale was the only area chorus open to all singers and with a membership of over one hundred, it did not offer the more spiritual experience Mr. Wolbrink envisioned. Originally named the Redeemer Oratorio Choir, over the course of its history, choir members have come from Greater New Haven and all over the world, all finding a community of belonging while they lived, went to school, or worked in the area. In fact, former members still reflect on the feeling of community they still have when remembering their time with the choir.

In 1990, the choir was officially incorporated as the New Haven Oratorio Choir and when the Church of the Redeemer closed, they found a new home just down the road at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Today, the New Haven Oratorio Choir carries on the legacy of its founder, performing two concerts a year, each with a unique focus.

Over its sixty-year history, there have been changes in performers, musical directors, and even their home base, but two features at the heart of the organization remain its foundation—a commitment to sacred music and an openness to all members of the community. As they celebrate this remarkable milestone, I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the New Haven Oratorio Choir and wish them all the best for many more successful years to come. As we say in Italian, "C'ent Anni!"

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Christian Church of Gainesville, Texas as it celebrates the 150th Anniversary of its founding. I'm pleased to congratulate the congregation on this significant milestone. With its long and storied history in Cooke County, it is truly an honor to join the congregation in recognition of the longevity of First Christian Church.

The church had a presence in Gainesville for several years before its members officially organized as a congregation, meeting first in a local schoolhouse then at the Cooke County Courthouse. The congregation officially organized as the Dixon Street Christian Church on Sunday May 10, 1874, with thirteen original members. Those charter members were Mr. and Mrs. John Darnell, Mollie Lee, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Barrett, Brother Hill and Aunt Nancy Hill, Mrs. Jennie Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. B.F. Carpenter. Church records are unclear as to who served as the church's first minister. One account lists Dr. Thomas C. Barrett as the first minister, serving from 1874 to 1878. A different source identifies Rev. A.J. Farthing as the first minister, followed by Dr. Barrett.

Mr. Rufus F. Scott, a pioneer Gainesville businessman, donated a lot on North Dixon Street to the congregation. Mr. J.Z. Keel, a schoolteacher, came to Gainesville and donated \$7,000 for the church to build a building. During the week, the building was utilized by Mr. Keel as a schoolhouse and by the church for worship on Sundays. First Christian Church has continuously existed at this location ever since.

Rev. A.J. Bush, serving as minister, brought an organ for use during services, which caused a split in the congregation between 1884 through 1886. This schism reflected the wider disagreement over the use of musical instruments in the church going on nationally in the Stone-Campbell movement.

The church has had several buildings over the years and was known as the Christian

Church, the M.E. Church and the First Christian Church. The "First Christian Church" name was officially adopted in 1950. A clapboard church building was erected in 1878 and used by the congregation until it was donated to the Bethel AME Church in 1892 and moved to Cummins Street. A bigger building was constructed in 1892 and used until 1926. A brick edifice was erected in 1927 and used as a sanctuary until 1956 before being converted for use as a classroom wing and a Fellowship Hall until 1993. The current sanctuary building was erected in 1956 and continues to serve the congregation. The new Pauline Roberts Fellowship Hall and classroom wing was added to the property in 1993 along with a Christian Life Center in 2004. Both facilities are still in use by the congregation.

The current congregation of 125 members continues to serve Gainesville and Cooke County with multiple outreach ministries including Coats for Kids, Backpack Buddies, SoulFood, Stanford House Activity Center for Active Seniors, VISTO and Care Corp. I join the members and all those who have had the privilege of being involved with First Christian Church in wishing them a happy anniversary and many more years of ministry and service to the community.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM WEST

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

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

HONORING KEITH CARSON, SUPERVISOR FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY'S 5TH DISTRICT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Supervisor Keith Carson, who has represented the 5th District on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors since 1992. Supervisor Carson has been a fearless leader in Alameda County, fighting for access to health care, improving business retention, addressing the scarcity of jobs in our communities, and ending poverty and homelessness. He approaches his role as Supervisor with the goal of creating a more inclusive and accessible government for the people of Alameda County.

Supervisor Carson is a Bay Area native from Berkeley, California. He has a B.A. in Political Science and Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Public Administration from Cal State University, East Bay, and a Juris Doctor from the John F. Kennedy School of Law.

Keith Carson has a long history of supporting our community through involvement in local politics. His interest in politics began in the Youth in Government program, where he was able to join a student assembly in Sacramento and learn about the government and legislative processes. He then served as an intern for Berkeley's first Black mayor, Warren Widener, as a student, and later went on to work for former Congressman Ron Dellums after his graduation from UC Berkeley. After working for Congressman Dellums for fifteen years in both his district and D.C. offices, Carson ran for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 1992.

As Supervisor, Carson chairs many Alameda County committees, including the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, the Alameda County Budget Work Group Committee, the Alameda County Personnel, Administration, and Legislation Committee, and the Alameda County Health Committee. As chair of the Budget Committee, Carson championed a more inclusive and transparent budgeting process for the county.

In addition to chairing committees, Supervisor Carson represents the Board of Supervisors on the Board of Directors for many local organizations, including the Executive Committee of the California State Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties, and the National Organization of Black County Officials. He is also a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the Alameda County Employees Retirement Association, and the Bay Area Council Economic Institute.

Carson's many accomplishments as Supervisor over the years include creating AC Impact, a program that aims to reduce homelessness in Alameda County by providing permanent and supportive housing to chronically homeless adults. He has also been a leader in bringing the county to a more sustainable future, adopting a Green Building Ordinance that requires county municipal projects to be built to a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Silver standard. Additionally, he has supported the funding of a Community Capacity Fund, which helps community organizations deliver re-entry services for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Carson's 30+ years of service have undoubtedly made Alameda County a better, more inclusive place. Supervisor Keith Carson is a beloved leader in our community, and I honor and thank him for his dedication to supporting Alameda County over the years.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER RHODES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Christopher Rhodes who serves as a volunteer Board Member for

the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. 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. Rhodes and his fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING JOHN VIGIL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

IMPORTANCE OF ACTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BLACK MENTAL HEALTH

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I stand with my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues to address the urgent challenges faced by the Black community in mental health during Mental Health Awareness Month and to call us to advocacy, awareness and action.

While Black adults experience mental illness at similar rates to the general population, they face different outcomes. Between 2010 and 2020, Black individuals saw significant increases in suicide rates. While the share of drug overdose deaths among majority individuals decreased between 2015 and 2020, shares of these deaths among Black people rose, accounting for their disproportionate share of drug overdose deaths.

The barriers to mental wellness for Black Americans are complex. They include but are not limited to mental health treatment stigma, limited access to culturally competent care, or care at all, and the enduring effects of racism and racial trauma. Historical and ongoing racism contributes to higher poverty rates, in-

creased incarceration, and limited access to healthcare and housing, as well as more subtle forms of discrimination like microaggressions, all of which deeply impact Black mental health.

Despite comparable rates of mental health conditions, only 39 percent of Black individuals have received mental health services due to systemic barriers and stigma. Approximately 10 percent of Black people lack health insurance, significantly affecting their access to care, and when care is sought, it often occurs in emergency departments rather than from mental health specialists. The scarcity of Black professionals in the mental health field exacerbates this gap in health care access, understanding, and trust.

Our response must include advocacy, awareness, and action.

We must push for policies that dismantle systemic barriers to mental health care, and societal drivers of Black mental health challenges. We must pursue initiatives that focus on education and destigmatization so more Black individuals seek help without fear of judgment. And we must act. We must promote diversity, equity, and inclusion training in medical education and provider training to mitigate provider bias and care inequality. And we must continue to address the enduring effects of racism and racial trauma.

Mental health is a right, not a privilege, and it is our duty to ensure that this right is upheld for every community, especially those that have been marginalized for far too long. Let us use National Mental Health and Wellness Month to commit to meaningful change. Together, we can foster healing, understanding, and resilience for all Americans.

HONORING THE VALIANT EFFORTS OF THE MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Madison County community for its valiant and courageous spirit.

On October 24, 2023, Madison County first responders began the difficult task of containing the Quaker Run fire. The following day, Madison County declared a local emergency after the fire continued to burn and eventually spread into Shenandoah National Park. As the fire continued to grow and weather conditions continued to work against first responders, it was inspiring to watch local residents and volunteers come together—soon, local news stations and articles began to highlight these efforts and the contributions made by these brave individuals who assisted first responders in navigating the steep and difficult terrain to contain the fire.

Unreliable cellphone service added to the uncertainty. In response to this, Verizon provided a mobile site for emergency personnel to use to facilitate and coordinate communication. It also allowed the Virginia Department of Forestry to generate maps on site that proved useful in helping organize the efforts on the ground to contain the fire.

In the face of adversity, the community came together to protect neighboring areas

and help Madison County in its efforts to contain the Quaker Run fire. Notably, volunteers—many of them local farmers and bear hunters—helped install large containment lines to keep the fire away from the community and also helped distribute food and water. The collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia National Guard, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, local fire and emergency services, law enforcement, and more than 140 volunteers and nearly 20 fire and EMS companies is a true reflection of the caring individuals who lent their time and a helping hand to assist in containing the fire and keeping Madison County residents safe.

On November 3, 2023, the fire had spread to roughly 1,500 acres. On November 9, 2023, the State of Virginia declared a state of emergency. Finally, on November 17, 2023, the Quaker Run fire was declared 100 percent contained with about 3,397 acres of private, state, and federal lands affected by the fire. The efforts made by volunteers and first responders from Madison County and across the Commonwealth were crucial to preventing further damage and ensuring the safety of residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and celebrating the courageous men and women who came together—from volunteers to first responders—to help their neighbors and provide support to one another as they fought to contain the Quaker Run fire. Their unwavering commitment to helping their community during this time of need is a source of inspiration and I am honored to represent them in Congress.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN NEWMAN

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a man whose service and leadership have left a lasting mark on everyone he's worked with throughout his career. Brian Newman is the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of UPS, he recently announced he will depart in June after having served the company for five pivotal years.

The United Parcel Service, commonly referred to as UPS, operates in over 200 countries and territories, with 500,000 employees globally, including nearly 7,000 in the state of Minnesota. Each day, 22.3 million packages and documents make their way through the UPS network.

Hockey players thrive under pressure, rely on their teammates, and appreciate the rewards of hard work, dedication, focus and discipline. Brian, a fellow ice hockey player and fan, embodies the hockey ethic.

Brian began his career in 1990 as an investment banker working for PaineWebber in New York City. He then spent 26 years with PepsiCo and served in a variety of finance leadership roles spanning Europe, Asia, and North and South America. He also served as Executive Vice-President for PepsiCo's Global Operations and as Chief Strategy Officer.

During his five-year tenure as UPS's Chief Financial Officer, Brian navigated the company

through some challenging situations. Under his leadership, Brian delivered results that supported employees, customers and communities. His list of accomplishments during just five years with UPS is impactful, and his leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be overstated. He has left an indelible mark on UPS's people.

Brian is an effective executive and financial expert, always ensuring his people, investors and shareholders understand the complexities of UPS's financial standing. He is a trusted advisor to his peers, a leader for UPS employees around the world, and a member of UPS's executive leadership team. Brian embodies UPS's purpose statement of moving our world forward by delivering what matters.

Brian also serves on the board of Colgate-Palmolive as well as his alma mater, Georgetown University and Delbarton School. A native of New Jersey, he still considers the tri-state area his home.

I know Brian will be missed by all who had the opportunity to work with him throughout his impressive career. His positive impact on UPS will continue to be felt for years to come. We all wish Brian, his wife, Lynne, and their children, Kendall, Shay, Conor and Finley, the best as they begin the journey ahead of them.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THERESA M. CLAIBORNE, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE PILOT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Colonel Theresa M. Claiborne, who was the first African American female pilot in the United States Air Force. Aside from her many accomplishments, Clairborne is flying her last commercial flight this month.

Captain Claiborne was born on May 25, 1959, to Wayne Morris, Sr. and Dorothy Claiborne in Emporia, Virginia. She attended California State University, Sacramento, where she earned a degree in Communication, Culture, and Media in 1981. Claiborne completed the University of California-Berkeley Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) program and was commissioned as a United States Air Force second lieutenant on June 20, 1981.

Following the completion of pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas, Lt. Claiborne graduated as the first African American female pilot in the United States Air Force on September 16, 1982. During Claiborne's active-duty years, she rose in rank to Captain and served as a KC 135 pilot at Loring Air Force Base, Maine. Captain Claiborne credits the Tuskegee Airmen as dutiful servicemen who paved the way for her and the Black women and men to follow.

After 9 years of dedicated service, Captain Claiborne retired from active-duty service and joined the United States Air Force Reserves as a flight commander and an instructor pilot, becoming a Lieutenant Colonel in November 2001.

Concurrently, after leaving active-duty service, Captain Claiborne joined United Airlines

as a flight engineer, working her way up to the rank of captain. She remained one of only 15 Black female pilots at United Airlines until 2019.

On January 6, 2003, Lt. Colonel Claiborne retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves but maintained her position as Captain with United Airlines, accumulating over 15,000 civilian flying hours.

However, Lt. Colonel Claiborne's service did not stop there. In 2016, she co-founded the Sister of the Skies with pilots Christine Angel Hughes and Nia Wordlaw, with the mission of supporting and building a diverse aviation workforce by offering workshops, mentorships, and scholarships.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Lt. Colonel Claiborne for her more than 20 years of service to our armed forces and for paving the way for a new generation of Black female pilots.

HONORING MARY YVONNE MYERS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mary Yvonne Myers, a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, and cherished Oakland community member. She was born on October 29, 1937, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi as the eldest child to parents James Calvin and Nancy Stewart Slaughter. Mary, later known as 'Yvonne' moved from Mississippi to San Diego, California in 1953 with her family. Her family flourished in their business ventures and elite social circles in California. In San Diego, Yvonne was mentored by her Aunt Mae, who was part of a group of African American entrepreneurs and community leaders in the area.

After completing her high school education at San Diego High School, Yvonne and her family moved to Northern California in 1959. Yvonne began a fellowship with the Faith Chapel Church of God in Christ, where she met Minister Levi Young. They were married in August of 1961, and had three wonderful children together, along with Levi's son from a previous union. Through this marriage, Yvonne developed a love for ministry as she walked in the office of First Lady of the Revelation Church of God in Christ. Under the leadership of her husband and pastor she was licensed as a Missionary in the Church of God in Christ, and as the First Lady, Yvonne mentored many young women as they began their Christian journey. As the Executive Administrator of Charles Harrison Mason Bible College, Yvonne ensured that students were successful in their quest to get a deeper understanding of the Word of God. In the late 70s, Yvonne and Levi amicably took separate directions in life, dissolving their union.

Yvonne remained very involved in Christian churches and continued to mentor young women in the church. In the late 1980s, Yvonne met the love of her life Reverend Clayton Myers, Jr. In July of 1989 the two were united in holy matrimony, a match truly made in heaven. Together, they led the auxiliary ministry of Evergreen's senior living facility, The JL Richards Terrace.

Later, Yvonne returned to the Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church, and served in a variety of ministry positions: Usher, Missionary, Hospitality, Greeter, Sunday School Department, and more. She used her positions to help children in the community, leading the 'Kids Closet', which aimed to ensure that all children had adequate clothing and basic supplies. Her passion and support for children continued outside of the church, as she used the office of PTA President to bring about many changes for students and families at Washington Elementary School.

She continued her involvement in the Oakland community, serving as Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Commission, championing many efforts to preserve the historic Children's Fairyland. She also worked on the Oakland Parental Education Program (P.E.P.), where Yvonne and her team trained parents through extensive workshops and training

courses. She later returned to schools as the on-site Parent Coordinator for Peralta Elementary School, where she created Black History programs and led holiday donation drives. Yvonne considered the programs she implemented for kids and parents over her life to be her greatest accomplishments.

Mary Yvonne Myers was thankful for her opportunity to hold leadership within her community. She was thankful for her family, and for the many roles God entrusted her with, including wife, mother, friend, and cousin. Yvonne Myers was the Matriarch of her family, and was proud of the accomplishments of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who she considered "future world changers". As the Matriarch, she was often fondly referred to as the "Queen." She became popular on social media in her later years and ending her videos with "Peace Out" was her signature.

With family by her side, The Queen gave her final "Peace Out" on December 11, 2023, at 5:05 p.m. Her presence will be missed but her spirit and influence will live on for generations to come.

She is survived by sons Donald Scotty Young, Kenny (Kelly) Young, daughter Regina (Kelvin) Alexander, grandchildren Charles (Shane) Young, Andre Young, Brittney Young, Kelvin (Rochelle) Alexander, Keena Young, Rochad Young, Korey Alexander, Shaun Young, Demarcus (Shannon) Young, Dominik Young, one godson Antoine (Charisse) Jones. Fourteen great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren, first cousins Rev. Dr. Clyde Oden, Jr., Dr. Robert Stanley Oden, Douglas Oden, Esq, Barbara Ann Slaughter, Fredrika Slaughter-Newton and a host of other cousins and friends.