

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BRETT MERLINA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Emergency Medical Technician Brett Medina, of Pasco County MedFleet. Technician Merlina exemplifies the epitome of dedication and compassion. With unwavering commitment, Technician Merlina has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, showcasing exceptional skill and poise in the face of adversity. Whether responding to emergency calls or routine transports, Technician Merlina's professionalism and excellent patient care have undoubtedly made a profound impression on his patients and those he works with. His tireless efforts extend beyond his normal duties in the field, as he actively steps up as a field training officer, striving to empower new hires in our organization with his skills and knowledge. Technician Merlina looks to continue to move up in his profession and is starting Paramedic School this spring with aspirations to become a critical care Paramedic within his organization. His leadership and mentorship serves as an inspiration to his peers and aspiring first responders alike.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Technician Merlina exhibits every day when he goes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be a First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Technician Merlina has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING JOHN J. CONNERS, JR.

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Army veteran, John J. Conners, Jr., for his many years of service to our country and community.

John J. Conners, Jr. was drafted into the United States Army on August 11, 1970. He received basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey followed by Advanced Individual Training for Infantry at Fort Ord in California. John was sent to Vietnam where he served from January 10, 1971, until October 1971 with the American Division (23rd Infantry), and with the 11th and 198th Infantry Brigades in Chu Lai in the Central Highlands. On June 15, 1971, John was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart. In addition, John received the

National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Defense Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantry Badge. After Vietnam, he was stationed at Fort Carson Colorado and was discharged on February 14, 1972, with the rank of SP4.

After discharge, John married Mary Lou and together they raised three beautiful children: Kelly, Sean, and Shannon. They have 4 grandchildren.

John is a life member of VFW Post 2246 and served on the E-Board. He is also a life member and the current 1st Vice Commander of Henry Post 24 American Legion where he served four terms as Commander and also held the positions of Chaplain, Color Guard, and E-Board member. He has been a member of the Rome Veterans Council and is a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Disabled American Veterans.

On behalf of New York's 22nd District, I am pleased to recognize the service and accomplishments of John J. Conners, Jr., and thank him for his courage and dedication.

HONORING MAGNOLIA ANUAL FORDE AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Magnolia Anual Forde was born on December 28, 1964, in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines, and is the daughter of Remy and Thelma Anual. She graduated from West Negros College with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

On August 25, 1988, at the age of 23, Magnolia immigrated to the United States with the help of an American veteran couple from Florida whom she was a caretaker for. They sent her to nursing school and helped with her room and board. During her free time, she used to volunteer in the school's cafeteria during lunchtime. She also was a volunteer server for the South Venice Firefighter Spaghetti Dinner, which raised funds for the local fire department.

In 1990, Magnolia met her husband and has been married to him for 33 years and counting. She is a member of the Central Florida Filipino Helping Hands Association, a community organization that helps Filipino families in the Central Florida area get back on their feet when facing hardship. In her free time, Magnolia volunteers at the Osceola Council on Aging. She also volunteers at Commissioner Viviana Janer's food distribution events throughout the year. Currently, she is working at the VA Hospital in Lake Nona as a mid-institute instrument tech, preparing veterans for cardiovascular evaluation. In her role, Magnolia has received numerous outstanding per-

formance evaluations and accolades for her care of veterans. She is very proud to serve those who served and advocates for timely care.

Magnolia remains a proud resident of Osceola County and overall enjoys her time assisting her community and partaking in various festivals and activities around the area.

RECOGNIZING JARED BUNCH

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN J. CONYERS, JR. BY COMMENDING HIS ACHIEVEMENTS ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and achievements of John James Conyers Jr., my friend, civil rights advocate, esteemed representative from Detroit, Michigan, and former Chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

Today, May 16, 2024, marks his 95th Birthday.

Congressman Conyers served 52 years as a U.S. Representative from three different districts in Detroit, Michigan from 1965 to 2017.

He was one of the longest serving members of the United States Congress and the longest serving African-American Member of Congress.

Mr. Conyers won his first election to Congress with 108 votes more than his opponent.

Following that election, he won reelections with 80 percent of the vote for the rest of the time he served as an elected member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his earlier years, education was the road to success.

After graduating from Northwestern High School, Mr. Conyers served in the Michigan

• 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.

National Guard from 1948 to 1950; the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1954; and the U.S. Army Reserves from 1954 to 1957.

He served during the Korean War as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was awarded combat and merit citations.

After discharge from the military, he earned both his B.A. (1957) and Law Degree (1958) from Wayne State University.

Once admitted to the bar, he was an aide to Congressman John Dingell.

He also served as counsel to several Detroit-area labor union locals, and was a referee for Michigan's workmen's compensation department (1961–1963);

John Conyers was one of 13 U.S. Representatives who cofounded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1969 and helped create the CBC Foundation.

During his time in the House of Representatives he sat on the House Committee on the Judiciary where he rose in seniority to become the Ranking Democratic member from 1995 to 2007 and again from 2011 to 2017.

Mr. Conyers became Chairman of the Judiciary Committee from 2007 to 2011; and served as chairman of the House Oversight Committee from 1989 to 1995.

He was the longest-serving member of Congress, and in that capacity, he was the Dean of the House of Representatives from 2015 to 2017.

His longstanding credentials were sharpened by his work to establish equity and fairness for all.

In March 2016, Mr. Conyers and Representative HANK JOHNSON introduced legislation to protect consumers' access to civil courts entitled the "Restoring Statutory Rights Acts".

Mr. Conyers was a sponsor of the United States National Health Care Act (Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act), a bill he reintroduced each session until his retirement from the House.

Another prominent bill Mr. Conyers sponsored was the "Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act" in January 1989.

He also re-introduced this bill each congressional term in which he served.

H.R. 40 calls for establishing a commission to research the history of slavery in the United States and its effects on current society with recommended ways to remedy this injustice. Since 1997, the bill has been designated "H.R. 40".

Upon leaving the House, he passed the responsibility for H.R. 40 to me.

I introduced H.R. 40 in the 117th and each Congress thereafter.

My bill does four things: It acknowledges the fundamental injustice and inhumanity of slavery; It establishes a commission to study slavery, its subsequent racial and economic discrimination against freed slaves; It studies the impact of those forces on today's living African Americans; and the commission would then make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies to redress the harm inflicted on living African Americans."

John Conyers as a former "Dean" of the Congressional Black Caucus, also joined the American Sikh Congressional Caucus; Congressional Progressive Caucus; United States Congressional International Conservation Caucus; Out of Afghanistan Caucus (Co-chair); Congressional Full Employment Caucus; Congressional Arts Caucus; Afterschool Cau-

causes; and the Congressional NextGen 9–1–1 Caucus.

John Conyers was a dedicated public servant who worked for the good of his constituents and the Nation.

I offer thanks to him and his family for the legacy he has left for those who continue to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the chair closed the tally as I was attempting to vote on Roll Call No. 217. I would have voted NAY on H.R. 8369, to preserve President Biden's ability to carry out decisions for our national security. The bill condemns President Biden for his policy adjustment on arms sales to Israel and would prevent both the Administration and Congress from slowing weapons transfers in light of credible evidence of human rights violations.

RECOGNIZING ERIK ORTIZ

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Firefighter/Paramedic Erik Ortiz, of the Brooksville Fire Department. Firefighter/Paramedic Ortiz has worked for the City since November 2021. From day one, he has left an impression on those he works alongside, as this young man carries himself in a professional manner, is always upbeat, positive, and does not complain about anything. He is a member of the Local 4661, serves as Coordinator for our Community Outreach CPR Program, coordinates Supply/Restock for the department, and organizes the city's Fire Department Merchandise Program. While he still relatively young in his career, Firefighter/Paramedic Ortiz seems wise beyond his years and operates in a manner that brings great credit to himself, his family, the City, and the citizens he serves.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Firefighter/Paramedic Ortiz exhibits every day when he goes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be a Brooksville First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Firefighter/Paramedic Ortiz has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING PRAYONG DEEYING AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Prayong Deeying was born in Surin, Thailand. He received a full scholarship, "Krome Pra-ya Dhumrong," from the Thai Royal Family to study fine arts at Silpa Korn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

After receiving his BFA in sculpting, he was employed by the United States Army as an art instructor and did freelance work as well. Prayong is recognized as an accomplished artist in Thailand. He was honored by having four life-sized sculptures placed on permanent exhibition in the Ancient City Park in Bang Poo.

Prayong moved to the U.S. in 1974 and received a master's in painting from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. After graduating, he taught art for 10 years at St. Mary's High School in Natchitoches. He received numerous juried art show awards. In 1985, he was one of 17 artists selected for Louisiana Limited Edition 1, a publication from a non-profit organization supporting the arts in Louisiana.

In 1987, he relocated to Orlando, Florida, where he worked as a preparatory artist and senior preparatory artist at Walt Disney World. As a cast member, he was an active VoluntEAR.

Once in Florida, he became close to the Thai community through his association with Wat Florida Dhammaram in Kissimmee. He has honored his parents' tradition of community service, as his parents and aunt and uncle donated the land to build the primary school and a Temple in their hometown of Surin by assisting in organizing ceremonies, fundraising, and supporting his fellow congregates.

In 1994, Phra Tepvaraporn, the founder of Wat Florida Dhammaram, and Phra Wijitdhammapani, the abbot of the Temple, honored him by requesting he act as president of the congregation, a role he continues to fill today.

From 2000 to 2003, he voluntarily sculpted, cast, and installed two 16-foot Giant Guards to grace the exterior of the Temple, sharing traditional Thai art with the community.

In 2014, he was recruited by the Asian-American Heritage Council to represent the Central Florida Thai community. He served a term as chair of that organization and continues to support the council by assuring Thai representation continues.

Since retiring from this role in 2007, he has continued his support of the Temple and the Asian-American community, as well as participating in several "Walks for Peace"—an event organized by Buddhist monks across the U.S. in which groups walk from Key West, Florida to Niagara Falls, New York.

Prayong lives in Ocoee, Florida, surrounded by friends and family, including his daughter Gibb, his son Michael, his granddaughters Faith, Grace, and Ellie, and his wife Cindy.

RECOGNIZING RONIN MARASCO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING OFFICER KENNETH KORCHAK

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Officer Kenneth Korchak, of the Port Richey Police Department. Officer Korchak started his career at the Port Richey Police Department as a part-time Telecommunicator. He had already attended and graduated from the law enforcement academy and was subsequently hired as a Reserve Officer in addition to his telecommunicator duties. Officer Korchak volunteered to work patrol whenever Patrol Supervisors requested coverage for a shift. His work ethic and proactive mindset resulted in him being hired as a full-time Officer. After being promoted, he volunteered for dual duties whenever Telecommunicator coverage was needed. Officer Korchak put the agency's needs ahead of his desire to work as a Patrol Officer. He also has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to professional development, as evidenced by his participation in coursework to continually refine his skill set. Officer Korchak is one of the most proactive officers in the agency, and this is reflected in agency's monthly statistical data.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Officer Korchak exhibits every day when he comes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be a Port Richey Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Officer Korchak has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING MARK ALAN BURROUGHS, SR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of former Denton Mayor, Mark Alan Burroughs, Sr. His recent, sudden passing has left a void in the hearts of many, but the imprint of his life has left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mayor Burroughs was not only a public servant; he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, esteemed attorney, and cherished friend. Born November 3, 1957, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mayor Burroughs' journey led him to become a pillar of the Denton community. As the second of seven children, Mayor Burroughs attended Klein High School in Klein, TX. He then attended Stephen F. Austin State University, in Nacogdoches, TX, honing the political and leadership skills the Mayor would later rely on by serving as SFA's Student Body President.

After earning his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1982, Mayor Burroughs briefly practiced ad valorem property tax in the Houston area, then joined a Fort Worth firm, working as defense counsel for federal contractors across the United States and as managing partner of Huke & Burroughs, P.C. In 1994, he partnered with Greg J. Sawko and established Sawko & Burroughs P.C. It was at this point that Mayor Burroughs' influence and leadership began shaping Denton's future that I honor today.

Beyond his legal practice, Mayor Burroughs devoted himself to a variety of civic endeavors, serving on numerous local boards and volunteering with several charitable organizations. Known for his active engagement and diligence on the boards he served, at the time of his passing, he was the sitting Board Chair of the Medical City Denton Hospital Board, Solutions of North Texas, Denton State Assisted Living Center Volunteer Services Council and the Denton Public School Foundation. His broad legacy of community leadership extended much further, heading the Greater Denton Arts Council and serving on the boards of the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, Denton Humanitarian Association, CASA of Denton County, DISD Adopt-A-School, State Bar of Texas' Pro Bono College, Denton Business and Education Coalition, the Denton Teen Court and as Past President and active member of the Denton Rotary Club and the Denton Chamber of Commerce. The Denton Chamber recognized his numerous impacts in 2016 with its highest honor, the Otis L. Fowler Award.

As engaged as he was with community organizations, it was in his role as a public servant that Mayor Burroughs truly excelled. He was elected and served three 2-year terms on the Denton City Council as a Member at Large, during which his colleagues appointed him Mayor Pro Tem. In 2008 he was elected Mayor of the City of Denton, serving from 2008 to 2014. In this capacity he effectively led a divided council to invest in not only City assets such as the Denton Regional Airport and Denton Municipal Electric, but also in the infrastructure and other needs of a community

that added over 30,000 residents during his tenure on the Denton City Council.

The reach of his public service extended beyond the city limits through his national and regional affiliations. He held memberships in the U S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities and Metroplex Mayors Association and served as Secretary for the Western Metroplex Mobility Coalition. Arguably, it was through his influence outside Denton that his impact benefited the city to the greatest degree. As Chair of the North Central Texas Council of Government Regional Transportation Council and service on the boards of TEX-21 Transportation Excellence, the North Texas Commission and DFW Partners in Mobility, he developed significant connections and influence as an advocate for the Phase I expansion of I-35E, which began in 2013.

Through all of his affiliations and accomplishments, Mayor Burroughs never took his privilege serve for granted, recognizing that the opportunity was provided by the people he was elected to represent. Above all though, Mayor Burroughs cherished his family. His love for his wife, Diana "Annie" McKee Burroughs, their children, Madeline and Mark Jr., and grandson, Greyson knew no bounds. His devotion to his family was evident in every aspect of his life.

As we mourn the loss of Mayor Burroughs, let us also celebrate the remarkable life and profound impact he had on our lives. Through his humor, diplomacy, and the legacy of love, integrity, and service, his inspiring spirit remains as a guide to a brighter future for generations to come.

HONORING DR. YA LAN CHIEN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ya Lan Chien, a Taiwanese American who holds a Ph.D. from National Taiwan University, is a prominent figure in Florida's Taiwanese community. As the president of the Taiwanese American Association of Greater Orlando, she is deeply committed to fostering unity, community bonds, and cultural understanding.

Dr. Chien is also known for her altruism, serving as an executive member of the Florida Taiwanese Emergency Assistance Association for seven years. Additionally, she holds executive positions in the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women Orlando. Since relocating to the U.S., Dr. Chien has been a tireless advocate for cultural exchange and environmental stewardship. In 2019, she led Team Taiwan's adoption of South Econ Community Park, a project that not only enhances local green spaces but also serves as a gathering point for community engagement and cultural activities. Through her leadership, the park has become a symbol of the Taiwanese community's dedication to environmental and social well-being in Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Dr. Chien's efforts extend beyond environmental initiatives. She is also passionate

about integrating Taiwanese cultural values into the broader American fabric. By organizing cultural events and educational programs, she strives to bridge the gap between Taiwanese traditions and American society, enriching the multicultural landscape of Central Florida and enhancing Taiwanese-American visibility and integration.

Balancing her influential public endeavors with her roles as a devoted mother to two daughters and partner to her supportive husband, Dr. Chien embodies the resilience, generosity, and communal spirit of the Taiwanese American community. Her enduring dedication makes her a commendable honoree during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, underscoring her significant impact on community cohesion and cultural understanding.

RECOGNIZING RAIN OLLENBERGER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Critical Care Paramedic Rain Ollenberger, of Hernando County MedFleet. Paramedic Ollenberger has been a shining example of excellence since arriving at MedFleet Ambulance. Although a relatively new Paramedic, Ollenberger has developed a wealth of knowledge and shows a level of expertise in the profession of critical care paramedicine. Paramedic Ollenberger consistently delivers top-notch care to those in need and her advanced skills and quick thinking have undoubtedly made a difference in the patients she has transported. Paramedic Ollenberger's dedication to ongoing professional development sets her apart as a leader in her field. Whether she is participating in advanced medical training or sharing her knowledge with colleagues, her passion for excellence is evident in everything she does. Her compassion, skill, and unwavering commitment to providing the best possible care makes her a true asset to the team and the communities they serve. Paramedic Ollenberger has been tasked with mentoring new paramedics and EMTs as a field training officer and continues to have outstanding reviews with excellent overall development of trainees.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Paramedic Ollenberger exhibits every day when she goes to work. She is a shining example of what it means to be a First Responder. Her work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Paramedic Ollenberger has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN SLABY

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

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

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

HONORING DAVID B. COMBS

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Army veteran and former Police Chief, David B. Combs for his distinguished career of service.

David was born in Rome, New York, to the late Vaughn and Edna Combs. He attended Rome schools and graduated from Rome Free Academy in 1967. Shortly after graduation, David enlisted in the United States Army. After basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, he went to Fort Gordon, Georgia where he trained as a telephone lineman. Upon graduation, David was assigned to A Company, 37th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade in Vietnam where he installed and maintained telephones and telephone lines in military installations throughout DaNang and the surrounding area. After working with that battalion for 18 months, David returned to Fort Bragg NC where he completed his tour at the rank of Sgt. E-5. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the New York State Medal for Merit.

After receiving an honorable discharge, David continued his service to the community by joining the Rome Police Department. He began his career in July 1971 as a patrolman and was promoted through every uniform rank, retiring as Chief of Police in 1993.

Apart from his personal military service, David designed and constructed over 60 flag boxes which were presented to each member of the 174th Fighter Wing upon their return from Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. For this selfless act, David received a Certificate of Appreciation from the commander of the squadron.

Additionally, David is a member of the Rome VFW Post 2246 and a member and officer of the Lee Center American Legion Post 1794. David is also a member of the Rome Coin Club, the Point Rock Gun Club, the Lee Center Gun Club, the Rome Police and Fire Department Retirees Group and the Lake Delta Kiwanis.

On behalf of New York's 22nd District, I am pleased to recognize the service and accomplishments of David B. Combs and thank him for his dedication to our country and community.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4510, the NTIA Reauthorization Act, bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), update the statutory mission and policy of the agency, authorize certain offices and activities of the agency, and provide greater Congressional oversight of the NTIA. H.R. 4510 also contains two bills I introduced regarding Cybersecurity, the Understanding Cybersecurity of Mobile Networks Act, and the American Cybersecurity Literacy Act.

THE UNDERSTANDING CYBERSECURITY OF MOBILE NETWORKS ACT

Every day Americans make calls, send texts, and access data on 2G, 3G, and 4G networks, yet we lack a comprehensive assessment of what vulnerabilities exist on these networks, what issues have been resolved, and where mobile cybersecurity policymaking should be focused. Since cellphones became common in the 1990s, government agencies, academics, think tanks, industry associations, and independent researchers have discovered various Cybersecurity vulnerabilities in our wireless networks. Wireless network companies, mobile device manufacturers, and other companies have responded to many of these vulnerabilities, but recent cybersecurity developments depict that vulnerabilities continue to exist in mobile cybersecurity. For example, Stingray's cell site simulators continue to intercept calls, texts, and mobile data of unwitting victims; SIM swaps are increasing as a means of identity fraud; and mobile spyware made by NSO Group and others have threatened the safety of journalists, activists, dissidents, and government officials around the globe. In each of these instances companies have taken certain actions to mitigate threats, but we lack a sophisticated, comprehensive, and independent assessment of what vulnerabilities persist, what issues have been resolved, and where mobile cybersecurity policymaking should be focused.

The Understanding Cybersecurity of Mobile Networks Act solves this lack of information. The legislation requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to conduct a comprehensive study on the cybersecurity vulnerabilities of our 2G, 3G, and 4G networks.

Specifically, the study will include an assessment of responses to known vulnerabilities and deployment of best practices, an estimate of the prevalence of effective encryption and authentication techniques,

along with a discussion of barriers to adopting more efficacious techniques; a discussion of the prevalence, costs, availability, and usage of cell site simulators and other surveillance and interception technologies.

In addition to coordinating with DHS, the NTIA is required to consult the various federal agencies with relevant expertise . . . academic and independent researchers, multi-stakeholder and international organizations, and industry groups. While the report will be public, it will include a classified annex so details about vulnerabilities that could aid our adversaries are not publicized.

THE AMERICAN CYBERSECURITY LITERACY ACT

Cyberattacks and data breaches are increasingly common, costing private companies and consumers billions of dollars and exposing the private information of countless Americans. As attackers become more sophisticated, Americans must have the tools to identify risks and protect themselves from attacks.

The American Cybersecurity Literacy Act requires the NTIA to conduct a public education campaign to improve cyber literacy of the American populace by providing information about common cybersecurity risks and best practices that can mitigate those risks. When the government or private businesses identify Cybersecurity risks, they are only fighting half the battle. Consumers have to be able to protect themselves from those risks, and this bill will give them the information to do so.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MANN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Telecommunicator John Mann, of the Port Richey Police Department. Telecommunicator Mann is a highly dedicated employee who on many occasions has referred to the Port Richey Police Department employees as his family. Telecommunicator Mann has reported to work on numerous occasions, barely able to walk without a cane when a lesser person would stay home. Not unlike other law enforcement agencies around the country, the Port Richey Police Department has experienced a shortage of qualified personnel to fill vacancies. This puts a strain on existing personnel, but Telecommunicator Mann has helped ease that burden by stepping up to the plate whenever possible. He has covered the shifts of fellow telecommunicators when they are ill, or when the department otherwise requires coverage. His selflessness and dedication to the safety of the officers on the road have outweighed his medical issues in too many instances. As U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, he embraces the notion of service above self and this is truly evident in his interactions with others. He takes care of his law enforcement family and they are tremendously grateful for his continued efforts to keep our community safe.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Telecommunicator Mann exhibits every day when he goes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be a Port Richey First Responder. His work ethic

should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Telecommunicator Mann has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING MATTHEW CHIANG AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, originating from a proud Taiwanese heritage, Matthew's academic Journey culminated in the attainment of a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey. Although he was brought up in the United States, Matthew possesses a remarkable fluency in Mandarin Chinese, a skill that has proven invaluable in his dedication to aiding the AAPI community.

Matthew's professional trajectory commenced in the medical field, where he first served as an emergency medical technician before advancing to the role of paramedic at Atlantic Health Systems. During his 14-year tenure in emergency medicine, he spearheaded the establishment of the Disaster Response Team and lent his expertise to several disaster deployments in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Notably, his compassionate care extended to the pediatric emergency room, where he witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of sex crimes and human trafficking on individuals, igniting within him a resolute determination to transition into law enforcement.

In 2020, Matthew embarked on a new chapter as he joined the esteemed ranks of the Orange County Sheriff's Office, assuming the role of deputy sheriff in an area marked by heightened incidences of violent crimes. His exemplary service led to a subsequent promotion to detective within the Orange County Sex Crimes Unit in 2023, where he tirelessly works to prevent such heinous acts and ensure justice for victims.

In 2022, under the leadership of Sheriff John Mina, Matthew played an instrumental role in the inception of the OCSO Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Liaison Group. Accepting a pivotal role as liaison, Matthew dedicated himself to bridging the gap between the AAPI community and law enforcement. In Orange County, Florida, where the AAPI community comprises approximately 7 percent of the population, Matthew's contributions have been profound. His adeptness in Mandarin Chinese has facilitated communication in numerous investigations involving the AAPI community, including offenses of violent crimes, sex crimes, human trafficking, economic crimes, and property crimes. Matthew has also assisted outside agencies such as the Army Criminal Investigative Division, the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement with investigations pertaining to the AAPI community. Through his efforts, Mat-

thew ensures that victim's voices are heard and their stories are duly recognized.

Matthew Chiang embodies the spirit of excellence and unwavering dedication to public service. His profound impact on the law enforcement, medical, and AAPI communities exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and compassion.

RECOGNIZING LYNNEA MASON

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

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

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

HONORING HUNTER HONGHYUN KIM AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Hunter Honghyun Kim was born in Seoul, South Korea, in 1971. He was the youngest of four children. From his early childhood, he was adventurous in spirit and fearless when facing new challenges.

After completing his military duties in Korea, he embarked on a journey to America that changed the course of his life. Rather than a big city, Hunter chose to begin a new chapter of his life in a small town called Vincennes, Indiana. In Vincennes, Hunter quickly adapted to the new environment and culture by making lasting friendships with fellow students and professors. He served as the first Asian American Student Association president and advocated for equity and diversity. Hunter continued his studies at the University of Florida and became a lifelong Gator fan.

In his professional life, Hunter founded Florida International College in 2008 in Orlando, Florida, with the vision to provide new opportunities and open doors for students. In 2016, Florida International College established a new campus in Kissimmee, and Hunter became an active member of the Osceola County professional community. Hunter found a unique balance in Osceola County, where the preservation of history and heritage coexist with the drive toward the future and technological advancement. Hunter began promoting

economic growth and development in the community by advocating and establishing relationships with international companies, universities, and research institutions to expand their operations to the County.

Through his efforts, Osceola County is forging strategic partnerships for global innovation and ecosystem building. His strength in building relationships, both personal and business, expands across borders and cultures, bringing prosperity to all.

Hunter is a loving husband of Jessica and a proud father of their five children—Gianna, Elianna, Noah, Rheanna, and Sianna.

HONORING NEW CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor New Calvary Baptist Church on its 90th Anniversary.

New Calvary Baptist Church traces its origins to the Second Calvary Baptist Church, which served the community from 1879 until it was forced to close during the Great Depression. Members of the Second Calvary Baptist Church congregation reopened the church as the New Calvary Baptist Church on May 16, 1934.

Since its establishment, New Calvary Baptist Church has prioritized serving the City of Norfolk's disadvantaged through mission and donation. New Calvary's outreach ministry has provided food, groceries, clothing, and more to people in need. New Calvary also operates a community development corporation that connects people with affordable housing, support services, and job opportunities. The members of this congregation uplift the Norfolk community, for which I thank them.

I also want to acknowledge the leadership of then five pastors over the course of their history. They are Reverend Dr. D.Y. Campbell, Reverend Dr. Samuel A. Wilson, Reverend Dr. Milton Reid, Reverend Dr. Gilbert G. Campbell, Jr., and their current pastor Reverend Dr. William Marcus Small, who has served since 2010. Under Dr. Small's leadership, the membership of the church has grown tremendously. Dr. Small has found new innovative ways to preach and teach, and he has enhanced numerous church ministries to address the needs of the Hampton Roads community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate New Calvary Baptist Church on its 90th anniversary and thank its members and leaders for all they have done for the Norfolk community. I wish them many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING JOHN EHNIS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Captain John Ehnis, of the Citrus County Fire Department. Captain Ehnis's dedi-

cation to recruiting and training the best and brightest new hires is a testament to his passion for cultivating and inspiring future generations of firefighters. He has also fostered a positive culture among both new and existing employees—a commendable feat that helps set this amazing team apart from other departments throughout the nation. Captain Ehnis sets a high standard for professionalism, serving as a role model for others in the department. Because of his daily contributions, the entire team's effectiveness and morale has dramatically improved.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Captain Ehnis exhibits every day when he goes to work. Captain Ehnis is a shining example of what it means to be a Citrus County First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Captain Ehnis has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING MAI-HUONG NGUYEN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, through her love for dance and education, Ms. Mai-Huong Nguyen proudly dedicates herself to representing Vietnamese culture and fostering cultural education and community outreach in the international settings of Central Florida and beyond. She holds active roles in shaping the community with Asia Trend, Avalon Park Group, FusionFest Orlando, and her own Kissimmee- and Orlando-based nonprofit organization, Thuyen May Productions.

In 1975, Ms. Mai and her family escaped Vietnam before the fall of Saigon. Only ten years old at the time, she was a Vietnam War refugee who learned the necessity of community and belonging. Her passion for cultural outreach sparked during her college years at N.C. State University and stayed with her when she moved to Central Florida in 1996. No matter where she went, dance, music, and choreography were her instruments for expressing and representing Vietnamese culture in the diaspora. As a Florida resident, Ms. Mai helps create communities and plan cultural events as part of the Asia Trend board, FusionFest board of directors, FusionFest steering committee, and as the former 2017–19 AAHC vice chair.

Formerly a schoolteacher, Ms. Mai focuses on connecting and building strong bonds with diverse Florida communities and younger generations alike. She continues more than 30 years of teaching experience through volunteer instruction of Vietnamese language at St. Philip Phan Van Minh Catholic Church, youth enrichment programs at Phap Vu, Phat An, and Phap Lac Buddhist Temples, and online private tutoring of core school subjects. Her

outreach also includes monthly Asian-themed workshops at Avalon Park, as well as mixed-media dance tours brought to libraries, schools, and museums.

Ms. Mai's foremost belief is that cultural education and sharing open doors to understanding, acceptance, and appreciation. Through dance and education, she continually seeks innovative ways to set the stage for diversity and inclusion for future generations to come.

RECOGNIZING DUSTIN MOORE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE EFFECT OF JACK KOSAKOWSKI ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the effect of Jack Kosakowski on the young people of the Pikes Peak region, the United States of America, and around the world through his work with Junior Achievement for fifty years.

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Junior Achievement is our nation's largest organization that provides access to knowledge and skills which create economic flourishing for youth in their communities and teaches practical steps to plan for the future. Founded in 1919, Junior Achievement started as an after-school program for high school students. Later expanded to middle school students that also included in school programs as well. With a presence in all fifty states and a network of volunteers around the world, Junior Achievement reaches over 4.4 million students in America and over 13 million students in over 100 countries around the world.

Jack began his Junior Achievement journey in Toledo, Ohio, as a high school student in the Junior Achievement program. He received a Junior Achievement scholarship as he attended the University of Toledo. Starting in 1974, Jack served in a variety of roles proving both his abilities and his passion for the people he serves. In his role as President and

Chief Executive Officer of Junior Achievement, Jack continues to lead the organization with the same drive for excellence and impact that he has strived for throughout his career.

In addition to his roles at Junior Achievement, Jack was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve a two-year term on the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy in January 2008. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Achievement Foundation, is a past member of the United States Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), and serves on the Council on Competitiveness' Learn to Compete Commission. Jack has also been named a Trustee of America's Promise Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring and celebrating Jack Kosakowski for his fifty years of distinguished leadership and service to the youth in the Pikes Peak region, the United States of America, and around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 211.

RECOGNIZING PATRICK DUDKIEWICZ

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Dudkiewicz, of the Pasco County Fire Department. On May 25, 2023, and again on June 1, 2023, while off-duty and working out at a local CrossFit gym, Firefighter Paramedic Patrick Dudkiewicz sprang into action to provide life-saving care to two individuals experiencing cardiac arrest. Firefighter/Paramedic Dudkiewicz performed Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and applied an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). In each instance, he successfully obtained Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) prior to the arrival of Fire Rescue. These actions not only saved the lives of two community members, but also serve as a testament to the dedication, professionalism, and readiness of Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Dudkiewicz. Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Dudkiewicz's actions highlight the importance of hands-only CPR, a simple yet effective technique that can be the difference between life and death in the event of cardiac arrest. His actions also serve as a powerful reminder of the critical role that first responders play in our communities and the lives that they save every day.

These are just two examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Firefighter/Paramedic Dudkiewicz exhibits every day when he goes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be a Pasco County First Responder.

His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Firefighter/Paramedic Dudkiewicz has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING KANNAN SRINIVASAN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Kannan Srinivasan is a former president of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Central Florida. He served in the chamber for six years as a board member and advisor. He is an accomplished leader, entrepreneur, and tech executive with over 30 years of information technology experience. He is a visionary community leader with years of experience in technology, sourcing, non-profit management, and strategic planning. His career is hallmarked by exceptional leadership, relationship building, and creative thinking.

As the founder and CEO of Global KTech, he grew the company from scratch into one of the leading tech staffing companies in Central Florida. Kannan served on the board of Orlando Economic Partnership and on the leadership committee for the National Entrepreneur Center. He also served as president and board member of Tamil Sangam (MSCF) of Central Florida. In 2012, he cofounded the MSCF Charity, which has given more than 350 educational scholarships to underprivileged students in India and Central Florida. Kannan currently serves as a member of the Steering Committee of UCF's India Center and is a board member of Shakthi US, an organization that helps survivors of domestic and intimate partner abuse with a focus on Central Florida's South Asian community. He is a life-long volunteer at the Hindu Society of Central Florida and a proud Rotarian.

His leadership was recognized by the Orlando Sentinel, which named him Central Florida 100—one of the 100 most influential leaders in Central Florida. In 1991, Kannan immigrated to Central Florida from India. He is a proud alumnus of the University of Central Florida, where he received his master's in computer engineering. He lives with his wife, Dr. Anita Ekambaram, and their twin daughters.

RECOGNIZING LUKAS CLEVINGER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

Lukas has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perse-

verance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Lukas, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Lukas's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING EFFORTS TO DESIGNATE A "NATIONAL ROOFING WEEK"

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Roofing Contractors Association, headquartered in Rosemont, Illinois, and its efforts to designate the week of June 2–8, 2024, as National Roofing Week.

The roof is one of the most important components of any home or business. It is the first line of defense against natural elements, such as rain, snow, or wind, and yet it is often taken for granted until it falls into disrepair. National Roofing Week honors the thousands of roofing-related businesses and workers across the country, as well as the industry's commitment to public service. National Roofing Week is a valuable reminder of the significance quality roofing has on every home and business in the U.S.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the Nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of professional roofing contractors worldwide. NRCA has nearly 4,000 roofing company members who represent the entire roofing supply chain. Using its vast network of roofing contractors and industry-related members, NRCA is responsible for the installation of new construction and replacement roof systems on commercial and residential structures in America. Most of its members are small, privately held businesses that provide family-sustaining jobs for thousands of hardworking individuals who are the backbone of our economy.

Professional roofing contractors provide vital services to their communities, on and off the clock. NRCA members will recognize National Roofing Week June 2–8 by supporting numerous charitable projects, employee training programs and other activities across the Nation. I commend NRCA and the vital role the organization and its members play in every community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging their contributions during National Roofing Week.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING RETIRED MARINE BURTON RAY GIGOUX

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor retired Marine Burton

Ray Gigoux for his selfless dedication to our country and his lifelong commitment to serving communities across Montana. On December 23, 2023, Burt, as his friends called him, went home to his Lord and Savior after a courageous battle with cancer. However, this extraordinary Montanan left a legacy that continues to inspire all of us today.

Since graduating High School, Burt has lived a life dedicated to public service, which led him to bravely answer the call of duty to serve in the United States Marine Corps. Following his courageous service in the Marine Corps, Burt married Anita, who became his lifelong partner in all his endeavors. After marrying, they both moved to Billings, Montana, where they had their son, David. Since moving to Billings, Burt, and Anita dedicated their time to serving veterans across the Treasure State. Burt's dream was to have a national veteran's cemetery in Yellowstone County, a land he found fitting as a final resting place for our Nation's finest men and women.

After persuading the county commissioners to join in his efforts, legislation was introduced in the Montana Legislature to establish the Yellowstone County Veteran's Cemetery, and it was approved. Burt's determination was enough to give the veterans of Yellowstone County a rightful resting place deserving of their accomplishments. However, Burt kept pushing to make it a national cemetery. After nearly a decade of convincing the VA, with all the odds stacked against him, his efforts were rewarded on Memorial Day in 2014, when the U.S. Undersecretary of the VA dedicated the Yellowstone County Veteran's Cemetery to national status. Thanks to Burt, Yellowstone National Cemetery is now the resting place of our Nation's finest heroes in Montana.

In addition, Burt proudly assisted 750 WWII veterans in visiting their national monument here in Washington, D.C. Through these actions and more, Burton Ray Gigoux left a lasting legacy and serves as an example to us all. May God bless the Gigoux family as they mourn the passing of this true hero.

It is a privilege to recognize his accomplishments and his lifelong service to our country in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN MARKFORD

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Firefighter/Paramedic Steven Matthew "Steve" Markford, of the Hernando County Fire Department. Firefighter/Paramedic Markford was selected for this honor by his peers because he has made many significant contributions to the Department during the past year. Furthermore, throughout his 12-year tenure with the Department, he has demonstrated superior abilities when responding to a wide variety of emergency incidents. Because of his steady leadership, impressive skill and relentless mentorship of new recruits, Firefighter/Paramedic Markford has advanced to his current rank of Driver-Engineer.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and serv-

ant leadership that Firefighter/Paramedic Markford exhibits every day when he goes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be a Hernando County First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Firefighter/Paramedic Markford has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING LIN LIN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Lin Lin was born in Northeast China and came to the United States in 2002. She is a certified public accountant with more than 18 years of experience in financial leadership. The last 14 years of her career have been with Orlando Health. During Lin's remarkable professional career, she has managed large-scale projects in healthcare and developed consistent processes in finance, operations, budgets, and forecasts. She is currently the senior director of finance at Orlando Health St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud, Florida. Previously, she was a senior auditor at Vesel & Wiler, CPAs in Orlando, Florida.

After earning her Bachelor of Arts in International Tourism Management at the University of North London, London, United Kingdom, Lin earned a Master of Science in Accounting at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida, where she remains an active UCF Alumni member.

Lin is fluent in English and Chinese. She is an active mentor of other financial health care professionals and has managed many interns and promoted their development in finance.

Lin is a member of the Florida Institute of CPAs (FICPA) and the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). She is also a member of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce for Orlando, Florida. Lin is a community volunteer with the Adult Literacy League, helping Central Floridians to become thriving members of the community. Lin also gives her time to volunteer at Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Florida, providing a range of accommodation facilities to more than 75,000 children and families suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

RECOGNIZING OLIVIA MACIAS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

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

verance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Olivia, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Olivia's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I mistakenly voted Yea on Roll Call No. 202, passage of H. Res. 1210, the Resolution "Condemning the Biden border crisis and the tremendous burdens law enforcement officers face as a result."

I intended to vote Nay, as I've consistently done on similar politically-charged, non-binding resolutions that play politics instead of work to achieve a bipartisan solution to the border. I regret the error.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF ZELL STEEVER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great environmental champion from southeastern Connecticut whom we lost recently, Mr. E. Zell Steever, V. A fierce advocate for climate resilience and sustainability policy, Zell spent his career in ecology and biology, serving as Director of Water and Related Resources at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, along with other roles in water resources protection and management at agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His decade-spanning support for environmental conservation and dedication to robust civic participation has been instrumental in the great strides our State has taken to realize a sustainable, climate-resilient future.

Zell began life with his family in Noank, Connecticut, where he settled after graduating from the University of Connecticut. He attended graduate school at Connecticut College, studying the local coastal salt march ecosystem and building a repository of evidence of the importance of healthy wetlands to fisheries, one of southeastern Connecticut's mainstay professions. In his free time, Zell was frequently seen sailing up and down the Long Island Sound, designing and renovating homes, and building Aleutian kayaks.

Zell's impact has reached far beyond the limits of Eastern Connecticut, as he held multiple national level positions. He advised President Nixon as a staff member of the President's Council on Environmental Equality. In

1993 he was selected for the 1992 delegation to the UN Earth Summit where he led negotiations on five chapters of Agenda 21 on behalf of the United States. He continued his high-stakes environmental work and advocacy until his retirement in 2004. Luckily for Eastern Connecticut, Zell's retirement was only in name. He continued his tireless work in Groton town committees including the Town Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Community Task Force, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee, and the Utility Drinking Water Quality Management Plan.

Zell was tirelessly active in municipal efforts to prepare for climate change, serving the community with groups such as the Groton Energy Efficiency and Conservation Commission and the advisory board for the Groton Utility Drinking Water Quality Management. One of Zell's most ambitious local efforts focused on the expansion of the area's commuter rail service, Shoreline East. His vision included extending the existing rail line from New London to Westerly, Rhode Island, making a route from New London to Norwich, and creating new stations in Groton and Stonington. He worked tirelessly to bring together stakeholders from across the region, creating a coalition of advocates with environmentalism and equity at the heart of its mission. Zell was at the forefront of this burgeoning expansion effort, leveraging his decades of experience in government and conservation to successfully push for legislation that called for an Eastern Connecticut Rail and Transit Feasibility Study, which was finalized and published in later 2023. This study will be instrumental in the further development of widely available and accessible rail in southeastern Connecticut, for which we have Zell to thank.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Zell Steever's service and spirit. His loss is felt deeply across the state and Nation. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, two sons, John and Scott, two stepsons, Jonathan and Gabriel, six grandchildren, and his brother Sanford. His resolute mission to protect the planet we call home and his devoted service to his communities will serve as a lasting legacy in the hearts and minds of Connecticut's future environmentalists and conservationists as they continue the work he dedicated his life to.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL WHITAKER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Communications Officer Michael Whitaker, of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. On Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, Officer Whitaker was working in the Communication Section as an Intake Operator when a constituent called 911 to advise that his 3-month-old daughter, Harmonie, was choking and could not breathe. After de-escalating the parent and helping him become calm enough to follow instructions, Officer Whitaker proceeded to provide life-saving instructions on how to clear the baby's

airway. The father followed all the instructions and was able to clear her airway. With Harmonie able to breathe fresh oxygen again, EMS arrived on scene and transported her to a nearby hospital for observation. Thanks to Officer Whitaker's swift actions, professionalism, and composure, Baby Harmonie is doing great today.

This is just one example of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Communications Officer Whitaker exhibits every day when he goes to work. Officer Whitaker is a shining example of what it means to be a Citrus County First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Officer Whitaker has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING JESSICA KIM AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Jessica received her B.S. in psychology and business administration from the University of Florida. She met her husband, Hunter, at UF. She continued her studies and received her Juris Doctorate from Barry University School of Law.

She believed that education had the power to transform lives and dedicated her early professional career to making education accessible. As the chief operating officer for NeoCity Links, Jessica helps develop strategic initiatives to promote economic growth. She coordinates business development efforts by working with public, private, and nonprofit sectors. She has proven expertise in a wide range of areas and successfully developed new international partnerships for Osceola County.

Jessica focuses her time outside of work on empowering women leaders through mentorship. She serves as the president of the PCUSA National Korean Presbyterian Women and actively strives to create opportunities for engagement and enablement for women to reach the highest level of leadership and potential.

Jessica resides in Windermere, Florida, with her husband and loves snuggling with her five children, reading, cooking, and kickboxing.

RECOGNIZING JAZZY MODECKER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

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

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

HONORING THE CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT PAM CONKLIN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Superintendent Pam Conklin upon her retirement as Superintendent of the Travis Unified School District after more than 25 years of service in education. Ms. Conklin's steadfast dedication to enhancing the quality of education in Solano County and advocating for her students has left a lasting impact on the Solano County community.

Ms. Conklin began her educational career as a teacher with the Novato Unified School District. Throughout her twenty-year tenure with the District, Ms. Conklin demonstrated a genuine commitment to fostering an environment of community and respect in her classrooms. She ultimately became the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources for the District, where she spearheaded efforts to ensure all students, regardless of their background, can reach their full potential.

In 2015, her passion for education led her to serve as the Oakley Union Elementary School District Superintendent. During her tenure, her collaboration with the Contra Costa County community and her critical leadership helped ensure the continued success of the Oakley Union School District.

Upon her departure from the Oakley Union School District, Ms. Conklin began working at the Travis Unified School District as the Human Resources Administrator and in 2017, she began serving as Superintendent. Her critical efforts to advocate for the students, teachers, and families of Solano County and Travis Air Force Base were indispensable to our community.

As Superintendent, Ms. Conklin played a pivotal role in supporting Travis Air Force Base and helping nine schools in the District earn the designation of "Purple Star Schools," schools that are committed to and equipped to meet the unique needs of military-affiliated students and their families.

While her leadership as Superintendent will surely be missed, Ms. Conklin's decades of service to the students of Northern California and Travis Unified School District have left an indelible legacy. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Ms. Conklin and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING HAYDEN MARCHANT'S
GRADUATION FROM THE
HOCKADAY SCHOOL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Hayden Marie Marchant's graduation from The Hockaday School in Dallas, Texas. Hayden entered The Hockaday School as a pre-K student and attended the school for her entire academic career. Her graduation, years in the making, as she highly distinguished herself both inside and outside of the classroom and earned the respect of her peers and teachers.

Among her many accomplishments at Hockaday was to serve as the editor of the school yearbook Cornerstones. The Hockaday yearbook is an exceptional annual challenge, trying to capture the year for the over 1,000 students coming not just from the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex, but from across Texas and the globe. This was in addition to her many athletic talents, being a member of the high school crew, soccer, and track & field teams.

Her extracurricular experiences were not limited to journalism and sports, but also included a significant focus on religious life and values. Hayden frequently led Bible study at Hockaday and served as an active member of North Dallas Young Life. She is also a member of First Baptist Church and is a major volunteer at the Fields Youth Group. Each Sunday morning, she manages the sound and lights for the youth service, mainly out of view, but her service is essential. She has demonstrated servant leadership at both ends of the spectrum, being out in front and behind the scenes. This balanced leadership approach will serve her well in the future and will benefit many as she continues to grow.

Hayden is the daughter of proud parents Matthew and Lindsay Marchant of Dallas and the sister of Kendall who graduated from Hockaday two years ago. Her supportive grandparents, Rodney and Sherry Hill of Frisco, and Kenny and Donna Marchant of Coppell, join in celebrating her graduation.

The Hockaday School prides itself on their four cornerstones of character, courtesy, scholarship, and athletics. For fourteen years, Hayden has lived up to and excelled at these school values, and they will guide her well as she starts college.

Hayden Marchant will attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas in the fall of 2024. Hayden was admitted to the Hankamer Scholars and Business Fellows programs, as well as the Honors College. Hayden has chosen to be a Business Fellow which is a highly selective program for high-ability students. Through the Business Fellows program, Hayden will be a student in both entrepreneurship and religion. She has already taken the entrepreneurship mantra very seriously at a young age, as she is the creator and head designer of the Rocking M Beads jewelry business.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Hayden Marchant on her high school graduation and all of her classmates on this important milestone. Our best wishes for her continued success as she starts her studies at Baylor University this fall, sic'em Bears.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW HARE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Lt. Matthew Hare, of the Inverness Fire Department. For the past three years, the Inverness Fire Department has been going through a rebuilding phase. Lt. Hare has been a vital part of this process and has been the go-to guy for any project that needs to be completed. He is constantly working to improve his skills and further his education. His excellent work ethic has allowed him to become one of the department leaders and he is a role model to his peers. Lt. Hare operates in a manner that brings great credit to himself, his family, the City, and the citizens he serves.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Lt. Hare exhibits every day when he goes to work. He is a shining example of what it means to be an Inverness First Responder. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other first responders should strive to attain. It is evident that Lt. Hare has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING HANDS OF THE
CARPENTER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hands of the Carpenter from Golden, Colorado on receiving the 2024 Golden Rotary Club's Ethics in Business Award.

For over two decades, Hands of the Carpenter has provided crucial support to single mothers through free and low-cost automobile repairs and maintenance. Hands of the Carpenter has grown significantly since its inception, going from assisting a handful of women each year to helping over 600 last year alone. For many single mothers, a reliable vehicle can make a world of difference. Hands of the Carpenter helps bring stability to often uncertain circumstances.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize the Hands of the Carpenter organization for all they do for our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for H. Res. 1210, H.R. 4510, H.R. 6571, and H.R. 3950. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 202; YEA on Roll Call No. 205; YEA on Roll Call No. 211; and YEA on Roll Call No. 212.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MRS. ANN DOUGHERTY KRAUS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Ann Dougherty Kraus—a pillar of our Dallas community.

Mrs. Kraus's journey is one of remarkable achievements and selflessness. She graduated second in her class from Western Kentucky University. She subsequently moved to Japan in 1952 to care for American soldiers injured in the Korean War. She later married William Kraus in France in 1956.

A Dallas resident from 1959 until 2024, Mrs. Kraus was a giant in our community. She raised her four children here, along with her community service as a member of the Dallas County Medical Alliance, Medical Center Board, and President of the Parent's Club at the St. Mark's School of Texas. She was also a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Dallas, Texas.

My heart goes out to all who knew and loved Ann, especially her sister, Margie Joy, her children, Greg, Peter, Sharon, and Stephen, her six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. May her memory be a source of comfort and strength.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed the first vote in the 4:45 p.m. vote series on final passage of H.R. 7530, the DC Crimes Act on May 15, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 201, on the final passage of H.R. 7530, the DC Crimes Act.