

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Metra on its 40th anniversary. Since it first began operations 40 years ago, Metra has been essential—a bedrock transportation service for the Chicago metropolitan area, connecting commuters to their homes, jobs, and other critical destinations throughout the region.

Without Metra's commuter rail network, our communities would be more isolated, our economy less innovative, and our region a less vibrant place to start a business and raise a family. I am honored to represent the communities of Illinois' 4th Congressional District, a district served by no fewer than three Metra lines: the BNSF line, the Union Pacific West line, and the Heritage Corridor.

Metra's future looks bright. However, sustaining Metra as a vital resource for our communities is an undertaking that is only possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many Metra employees. To this end, we must commit to increasing federal investment in our commuter rail networks as a critical component to securing Metra's future and that of public transportation in the Chicago region.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other landmark legislation enacted under the Biden Administration have supported the beginning of a new chapter for Metra, and I look forward to continuing to partner closely with Metra as its vital work continues in the years to come.

I am proud to champion Metra's efforts to improve and strengthen its infrastructure and its service to its customers by continuing to focus on safety, reliability, efficiency and innovation. As we celebrate its 40th anniversary, I say thank you, Metra.

### RECOGNIZING LEILA GORDON ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leila Gordon on the occasion of her retirement. Leila has served as the Executive Director of the Reston Community Center (RCC) for nearly 17 years, and her leadership, commitment to service, and passion for her community will be dearly missed.

Leila Gordon moved to Northern Virginia in 1969 and has resided in the area intermittently ever since. She first fell in love with Northern Virginia while attending James Madison High School in Vienna. After graduating, she stud-

ied theater in college and soon found herself working for a theater in Georgia, but she hoped to return to Northern Virginia.

She luckily got her chance when a position opened up at the Reston Community Center for supervising arts education classes. Shortly after starting, she was promoted to department head and continued in that position until being selected for the role of Executive Director.

In her role as Executive Director, Leila oversaw an enthusiastic team of more than 300 full-time and seasonal professionals. Each year, RCC offers positive, self-development experiences that enhance the quality of life for all people living and working in Reston. They also create and sustain community traditions through special events, outreach activities, and facility rentals.

During her tenure, RCC experienced tremendous growth and received numerous accolades celebrating RCC's facilities, programming, and sustainability. Notably in October 2020 they earned accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), a mark of an agency's excellence in its leadership, management, operations, programs, and services. CAPRA assures policymakers, department employees, and the public that RCC can provide programs, facilities, and services with integrity. This designation is in no small part due to the dedication and passion of Leila Gordon and the entire team at RCC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Leila Gordon for her years of service to our community. Her love for Reston and its residents was always apparent. Leila worked tirelessly to ensure that Reston Community Center enriches lives and builds community for all of Reston. I wish her the best for all of her future endeavors.

### CELEBRATING THE NORTH TONAWANDA BOTANICAL GARDEN ORGANIZATION AS THE NOT FOR PROFIT OF THE YEAR BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE TONAWANDAS

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the North Tonawanda Botanical Garden Organization as the Not For Profit of the Year recognized by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas.

Launched in 2018, the North Tonawanda Botanical Garden Organization is driven by a deep commitment to enriching our community's understanding of native plants, pollinators, water-wise practices, and sustainable gardening. With the dedication of their members and volunteers, the North Tonawanda Botanical Garden Organization's passion shines through and exemplifies their commit-

ment to education and empowerment, inspiring citizens to engage with and protect our natural environment.

The North Tonawanda Botanical Garden Organization has flourished through strong partnerships, notably with the North Tonawanda Youth, Recreation, Parks & Seniors Department. Their collaboration with Girl Scout Troop No. 71226 and the New York State Department of Conservation's regional team is a remarkable example of community-driven environmental education. Together, they have worked to establish vital aquatic habitats, demonstrating the organization's commitment to irreplaceable ecological functions.

Today, as we celebrate the North Tonawanda Botanical Garden Organization, and look forward to many more years of service, collaboration, and community enrichment, let us acknowledge their unwavering dedication to our community and the environment. Their efforts not only beautify our surroundings but also educate and inspire future generations to cherish and protect our natural resources.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE MARCHINI

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joe Marchini, a beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, and farmer.

Born on December 9, 1938, Joe was the second of three sons born to Italian immigrants, Florindo and Elisa Marchini. Raised on a family farm in Le Grand, CA, Joe attended Savannah Elementary School where he first learned to speak English. However, after traveling to Italy with the family for a year, he had to be sent to St. Mary's School in Berkeley to relearn the English language. He would often boast that he "learned English twice." Joe would go on to graduate from Merced High School in 1958, which he commemorated with another year-long trip to Europe with his brother Leonard. When he returned, he began dating Juliette Thompson, whom he married the following summer in 1960.

Although his adult life was just starting to take form, his farming career was already well underway. In fact, it began at the ripe age of 13 for Joe, when he harvested his 11-acre crop of fresh market tomatoes. A true green thumb, Joe was known for tending to his beloved garden and sharing its goodness with family and friends. Not long after his marriage, in the early 1960s, Joe purchased his father's shares in the family's tomato and bell pepper farming operation, Giampaoli and Marchini.

Throughout the years, operations became known as J. Marchini Farms and grew numerous crops including their signature fresh market tomatoes and bell peppers, kale, chicory, fennel, onions, almonds, pistachios, wheat, alfalfa, corn, and figs. Then in the early 1990s,

● 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.

Joe returned to his Italian roots and brought the radicchio seed from his homeland to the United States. As the world's appetite for radicchio grew, so did J. Marchini Farms which eventually became one of the world's biggest radicchio producers, shipping to Japan, Korea, Canada, and all along the East Coast. A visionary, Joe eventually decided he needed to start producing his own almonds as well and rallied together some farm friends to form the Minturn Nut Company. His passion to be innovative worked in his favor once again as their operations went from producing 10 million pounds of almonds to a staggering 110 million pounds.

Despite his success, Mr. Marchini always kept his boots to the soil and made sure to give back to the community. Throughout his 70 years of farming in Le Grand, Joe was a member of the Le Grand Volunteer Firefighters, a strong supporter of Le Grand Community Day, and a parishioner at our Lady of Lourdes in Le Grand. He built a cemetery in Plainsburg and a state-of-the-art car wash in Chowchilla to address community needs. Furthermore, he was also known to humbly help other farmers in times of need, and took care of his employees, whom he credits his success to.

Joe always lived life to the fullest, doing the things that he loved most such as visiting the cabin he built with his friends, skiing, taking his famous jet boat out to Kelsey Lake, and spending the summers at Sand Dollar Beach with family and friends. However, in 2012, Joe was diagnosed with cancer and given three months to live, but by God's grace and the support of those around him he was granted 10 and a half more years of life until the age of 84.

He will always be remembered fondly throughout his community, by friends and loved ones including his wife, Juliette; his brothers, Leonard and Richard; his children, Lisa, Jeff, and Fania; his 10 grandchildren; and his 11 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joe Marchini for his contributions to agriculture and the community. May we never forget his contributions and continue to be inspired by his story.

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**RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: CARLA REYNOLDS**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Carla Reynolds, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire

hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Carla has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Carla has made it her life's mission to be an agent of positive change wherever she can and she has excelled remarkably in this endeavor. Carla is an unwavering advocate, activist, event organizer, humanitarian, and beacon of hope for all in our community, especially for those facing adversity. Through the The Boots on the Ground Foundation, which she founded in 2021 alongside Danyelle Eckert, Carla works relentlessly to provide vital resources and support to anyone in need. Whether collecting food, toiletries, and other necessities, distributing holiday meals and gifts, assisting seniors, providing financial and peer-based recovery support, or organizing community and family-driven events, Carla has created an organization that serves as a vital lifeline and incredible resource for individuals and families in our community in need of assistance. Carla is also responsible for spearheading Bristol Borough's annual Unity Day celebration. Each year, she orchestrates this incredible event to honor our local First Responders and bring our community together to foster stronger community-police relationships while celebrating our rich culture. I have had the pleasure of attending Unity Day since its inception and continue to be inspired by her ability to create such a powerful display of a vibrant and united community. Carla truly is a force of positive change within our community, and her work has undoubtedly touched and bettered countless lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Carla Reynolds that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Carla not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Carla Reynolds for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

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**RECOGNIZING DANA RITTER**

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dana Ritter, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dana Ritter has built a meaningful career centered around finding and reporting truth as the Washington D.C. Bureau Chief for CBN News (Christian Broadcasting Network). Dana leads with this motto: "Do right by the newsmaker. Do right by the audience. Do right by each other." As a Christian woman in media, her aim is to bring glory to God by tell-

ing stories of what He's doing in the world, seeking truth—not spin, and recognizing the sovereignty of God—no matter the story or event she's covering.

She leads the DC team in coverage of the White House, Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and other big stories in Washington. With nearly 25 years of experience in broadcast journalism and digital media, Dana has served in television newsrooms across Washington D.C., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Norfolk, and Roanoke, Virginia, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Dana previously worked at CBN News as the White House Producer and was the Executive Producer of the Brody File.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA 2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS**

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, each year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes a select group of schools across the country, celebrating their academic achievements and contributions to educational excellence. As a South Dakotan, I am proud of Christ the King Elementary, Lennox Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, and Warner High School for being named as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

Lennox Elementary, Christ the King Elementary, and Warner High School are honored for their high scores in English and mathematics, while Lincoln Elementary is recognized for its progress in closing the achievement gap among subgroups. This will be the second Blue Ribbon recognition for the Warner School District, as Warner Elementary School was awarded in 2016. These schools serve as models of proficient education for schools throughout the Nation.

Outstanding teachers and a supportive community are key to the success of each of these Blue Ribbon Schools. It is paramount that we continue to have exceptional teachers and schools for our kids and the future of our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these four exceptional schools in South Dakota. I'm confident they will continue to make great contributions.

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**HONORING JUDITH DITTMAN FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH SECOND STORY**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judith Dittman, Chief Executive Officer of Second Story. Judith has been serving communities in Northern Virginia through Second Story since 1995. Since 1972, Second

Story has worked closely with youth and families across Northern Virginia through strategic programs to help them work toward self-sufficiency as well as break cycles of homelessness, abuse, and poverty. As Chief Executive Officer, Judith has used her background of almost 30 years in nonprofit management and advocacy to obtain more services for at-risk, abused, homeless and runaway youth—including opening seven new programs since 2004 targeted to this population. Because of Judith, thousands of youths and families have been able to write their Second Stories.

Judith has served on federal panels to develop standards for federally funded programs serving runaway, homeless, and street youth. She also was a Greater Washington Nonprofit Roundtable Fellow. She has presented at numerous National Conferences on topics relevant to youth and young adults. Judith serves on the Policy Advisory Committee for the National Network for Youth. She is a member of the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team of Fairfax County as a former Board Member for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Judith Dittman for her tremendous efforts as a leader in Northern Virginia communities, as she celebrates her retirement after 30 years with Second Story.

**RECOGNIZING THE NCAA IN INDIANAPOLIS FOR 25 YEARS**

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Collegiate Athletic Association, also known as the NCAA, and the last 25 years it has spent headquartered, thriving and growing in the Circle City, which I'm honored to represent.

I am proud to recognize the NCAA, which has been an iconic part of Indianapolis for the last 25 years and has inspired individuals across the globe. The NCAA has worked to protect and improve the lives of Hoosier athletes and athletes around the country since its inception in 1906. They started off sharing office space with the Big Ten Conference in a downtown Chicago hotel, then moved to Kansas City, Missouri in 1952. The NCAA spent the next 40 years in the Kansas City area and, after exploring future locations, decided the city of Indianapolis would be their new home.

In 1999, when they officially made the move to their new state-of-the-art location on Indy's downtown Canal, the NCAA solidified Indianapolis's status as the "amateur sports capital of the world." This has helped our city host countless NCAA conventions, conferences, championships, and other major sporting events, like the College Football Play-offs, Big Ten Championships, and Horizon League Championships. In the next couple of years, Indy will host the 2026 Division I, II, and III Men's Basketball Championships and all three championships for Women's Basketball in 2028.

Hoosiers love sports, especially basketball, so the NCAA's 25th anniversary in Indianapolis is a special time to uplift the power of

sports and the impact sports can have on more than just one athlete, but on an entire community. The NCAA presented a generous 25th anniversary donation to the Indianapolis Public Schools Foundation to fund self-development opportunities for more than 1,000 student-athletes at seven area middle schools: Arlington, Broad Ripple, William Penn, Harshman, Longfellow, Howe, and Northwest. This investment in our community will help foster a lifelong love of sports, giving young people a chance to build self-confidence, and self-efficacy and improve retention in school and athletic programs.

On this wonderful milestone, we thank the NCAA for being a strong community partner and look forward to working together and continue making our city the best it can be.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK BIERMANN**

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, Jr.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Frederick Biermann, a man whose legacy of courage, service, and innovation spans continents and generations.

Born in Vienna in 1930, Fred and his family fled Nazi occupied Austria in 1938, eventually finding refuge in the British Mandate for Palestine. At the young age of 15, Fred joined the Haganah, defending his community from oppression and later serving with distinction in the Israeli Defense Forces during Israel's fight for independence.

Fluent in five languages, Fred immigrated to the United States in 1952 and continued his service, eventually rising to the rank of Colonel in both the Israeli Defense Forces and United States Army. His leadership is mirrored by his innovative contributions in the fields of dentistry and medicine, where he pioneered advancements in bridges, implants, and even heart valve technology.

A devoted husband to Rose and a loving father to Sharon, Hal, and Wendy, Fred's life is marked by resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to improving and safeguarding the world around him. It is my privilege to place his name in the Congressional Record in recognition of someone who truly exemplifies service and excellence.

**COMMEMORATING KAZAKHSTAN'S REPUBLIC DAY**

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Republic Day of Kazakhstan and recognize its declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

Kazakhstan's early alignment with the West, especially in fostering a free-market economy,

has significantly influenced its development over the past 30 years, Kazakhstan has transformed into a thriving nation with a strong economy, a growing international presence, and a robust partnership with the United States.

The relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States is rooted in shared values of democracy, shared economic prosperity, and mutual respect among nations. As we celebrate Kazakhstan's achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to working together to address global challenges while promoting peace, security, and economic development.

Kazakhstan is dedicated to promoting religious tolerance and pluralism. The country hosts a triennial conference, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, to foster cooperation and respect among the world's major faith traditions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Shintoism, and Taoism.

Kazakhstan's commitment to the rule of law and fostering a welcoming environment for foreign investors has made it an attractive destination for U.S. companies, which have become one of the largest sources of direct foreign investment.

This progress aligns with the country's broader goals of sustainable development and economic diversification, further cementing its role as a key player in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan continues to be a pillar of stability in Central Asia, emerging as a global leader in nuclear non-proliferation, peace-keeping, and fostering regional cooperation. As a net contributor to peace and security not only in the region, but also globally, Kazakhstan is committed to addressing global challenges and promoting international stability.

At the sixth consultative meeting of the Central Asian Heads of State, Kazakhstan emphasized its vision of a "Renaissance of Central Asia." This process is seen as a critical step in positioning the region as a self-reliant and influential force in an evolving global landscape.

Kazakhstan leads the region in its readiness to serve as a strong U.S. partner, positioning itself as one of the most cooperative allies in the region.

In 2023, President Biden met with the Presidents of Kazakhstan and four other Central Asian nations at the inaugural C5+1 Summit during the United Nations General Assembly. Since its inception in 2015, the C5+1 platform has strengthened U.S.-Central Asia cooperation, advancing shared goals of regional security, economic resilience, and sustainable development.

The New York Declaration, adopted at the Summit, reflects shared priorities in security, economic, and energy partnerships, underscoring the mutual commitment of the United States and Central Asia to enhancing regional cooperation and connectivity.

Following the Summit, Kazakhstan has demonstrated its commitment to key initiatives by promoting the B5+1 platform, advancing the Critical Minerals Dialogue, and launching the "C5+1 on Disability Rights" initiative.

The United States and Kazakhstan remain committed to accelerating regional cooperation and connectivity. This includes expanding trade routes, such as the Trans-Caspian Trade Route, and fostering a more favorable business environment for U.S. private sector trade and investment in Central Asia.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's commitment to political and societal reforms is highly commendable. Despite external pressures, Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia, exemplifying its dedication to democracy and Western ideals.

On October 6, 2024, Kazakhstan held a national referendum on constructing a nuclear power plant. This event marked a significant step in shaping a new socio-political culture and exemplified the "Listening State" concept, where the government actively engages with citizens on critical issues.

Kazakhstan remains a trusted partner, both regionally and globally, particularly as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This long-standing partnership highlights the importance of advancing efforts to establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations, ensuring that Kazakhstan's economic growth is fully acknowledged and supported within the global marketplace.

As we look to the future, the United States and Kazakhstan are poised to deepen their partnership through continued dialogue, trade, and collaboration on shared goals. Together, we are committed to fostering peace, security, and prosperity, not only in Central Asia but on the global stage.

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CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORMALVILLE CHURCH

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**HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the congregation of Normalville Church in Normalville, Pennsylvania, on their 175th anniversary.

The church was founded by German immigrants in the mid-19th century who were a part of the United Brethren denomination. Originally, the immigrants bought the land in 1847 for \$25 and the church opened two years later in 1849. The church started out as the Evangelical United Brethren, transitioning to the United Methodist in 1968 before eventually becoming Normalville Church. The church is currently led by Pastor John Knoll, who will continue the storied legacy of those who came before him.

Throughout its history, the church has served as an important place for members to come together, worship, and serve their community. The congregation leads food banks, clothing drives, and donates to the local volunteer fire department and schools. Not only does the church work to serve the people of southwestern Pennsylvania, but they also have a donation drive, Operation Christmas Child, that provides shoes to children in need across the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Normalville Church on their 175th anniversary and thank them for bringing the community together.

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RECOGNIZING PETER F. MURPHY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

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**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter F. Murphy on the occasion of his retirement. Appointed in December 1982 to represent the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Planning Commission, Pete has left a remarkable legacy of leadership, public service, and community building. His tenure has profoundly shaped Fairfax County's development and growth.

For more than 40 years, Pete served with unwavering commitment, including as the Commission Chairman for 34 years—a role in which he guided the county through major development initiatives, land use decisions, and infrastructure projects. His leadership on the Commission has ensured that Fairfax County maintained growth, ensuring a balance between development and preserving the county's quality of life.

Beyond his service on the Planning Commission, Pete was active in various key county initiatives. He chaired the County's Telecommunications Task Force, served on the Route 28 Corridor Task Force, and provided leadership in the Fort Belvoir Engineer Proving Ground Task Force. These projects are a testament to his expertise in understanding the long-term needs of the region and his ability to guide complex development processes.

Pete's contributions to Fairfax County extend far beyond planning and land use. He was instrumental in helping Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. grow into a significant regional event. His involvement as a member of the Board of Directors reflects his deep commitment to fostering community engagement. He also worked closely with regional organizations and task forces to ensure that Fairfax County remained a leader in addressing the challenges of transportation, housing, and infrastructure.

His dedication has been recognized with multiple awards, including the prestigious Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service and the Lawrence V. Fowler Award. He was also named a Lord Fairfax in 1999, and in 2013, he was honored with the Celebrate Fairfax Ambassador Award.

Beyond his service to Fairfax County, he has also been a leader in the private sector, contributing to public relations and communications. He is an Honorary Chief of the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and has continually exemplified leadership throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, Peter F. Murphy's commitment to public service is seen through his tireless work on behalf of the people of Fairfax County. His vision and tireless efforts have made our community a better place to live and work, and his legacy will continue to impact generations to come. I commend him for his service and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his retirement.

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HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND STATEWIDE IMPACT OF MR. WILLIAM J. HYBL AT EL POMAR FOUNDATION

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**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership, accomplishments and statewide impact of Mr. William J. Hybl, at El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

For more than five decades, Bill Hybl has generously and unwaveringly served the people of the Pikes Peak region and Colorado first through his work as District Attorney for the 4th Judicial District, then as an elected member of the Colorado House of Representatives, and most recently through his leadership at El Pomar Foundation. As the first employee of El Pomar Foundation in 1973, Hybl stewarded and steered the private foundation established by Spencer and Julie Penrose into the respected, generous, and visionary organization it is today.

Under his leadership, the El Pomar Foundation substantially grew its grant making capacity, leadership development and community engagement programs, and historic property destinations, which all support the well-being of Colorado's residents. Hybl either led or collaborated on significant economic growth projects to support Colorado communities. Thanks to his guidance, El Pomar has contributed more than \$750 million in grant funding and programming for the benefit of the people of Colorado.

Though he has retired as CEO of El Pomar Foundation after 50 years of leadership, he holds the distinction of Chair Emeritus on its Board and continues to serve as a Trustee, providing continued guidance and counsel to the Foundation's governance and grant making.

In addition to leading philanthropic efforts impacting Colorado through the Foundation, Hybl has served and represented Colorado in numerous national and global roles. He was appointed Special Counsel to President Ronald Reagan in 1981. In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed him as U.S. Representative to the 56th General Assembly of the United Nations. In 2008, Hybl was confirmed by the United States Senate as Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Public Diplomacy, a position he was appointed to by President George W. Bush. At the recommendation of the Senate, he was re-appointed by President Barack Obama in 2011, and currently serves as Vice Chairman.

Hybl is Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus. Additionally, he was Chairman of the Board of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) from 2003 through 2009 and currently serves as Chairman Emeritus. Hybl is Vice Chairman of the Board for International Programs at The Fund for American Studies.

Perhaps most known for his contributions to the Olympic Movement, Hybl is President Emeritus of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and served twice as President, leading the United States Olympic Team Delegations at four Olympic Games. He is Chair of the U.S. Olympic and

Paralympic Endowment and was also a member of the International Olympic Committee from 2000 through 2002. He was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2006. His dedication and commitment to the Olympic Movement has helped pave the way for Colorado Springs to be named Olympic City USA.

A native of Colorado, Hybl was raised in Pueblo, Colorado and attended Colorado College, where in 1964 he was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program. He then went on to earn his Juris Doctor at the University of Colorado School of Law in 1967. After graduating from law school, Hybl served in the United States Army, serving as a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General Corps until 1978.

He was married to Kathleen Horrigan for 56 years, and they have two sons, B.J. and Kyle, and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring William J. Hybl's life, which is a testament to his unwavering dedication to public service, leadership, and community engagement. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the Olympic movement, public diplomacy, and numerous organizations. His legacy of service and commitment continues to inspire and impact countless individuals and communities in the Pikes Peak region and throughout Colorado.

**CELEBRATING LAURA WILSON AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE TONAWANDAS**

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ms. Laura Wilson as the Citizen of the Year recognized by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Laura has been an indispensable force behind the growth and revitalization of North Tonawanda, and her contributions are nothing short of remarkable.

Joining the Lumber City Development Corporation in 2014 and serving as Executive Director since 2021, Ms. Wilson exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated public servant and visionary leader, playing a vital part in the Riviera Theater and Entertainment Complex revitalization.

Ms. Wilson's vision extends beyond mere bricks and mortar. Her keen eye for art has transformed many public spaces within the City of North Tonawanda. These artistic touches not only help make the city beautiful but also foster a sense of pride and identity among fellow citizens.

Laura's commitment does not stop at her professional responsibilities. She is deeply involved in our community, serving as a Board Member of Leadership Niagara and previously on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Her volunteerism and guidance extend to various organizations, further demonstrating her dedication to making North Tonawanda a better place for all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Ms. Laura Wilson as Citizen of the Year. We all should recognize her remarkable leadership and achievements but also her unwavering spirit of collaboration, innovation, and service.

Laura's leadership has left an indelible mark on our city, and we are all the better for it.

**HONORING THE CAREER OF JOHN RICH**

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of John Rich, longtime Managing Editor of the Fresno Bee.

John Rich has served the San Joaquin Valley as a dedicated Journalist for over 40 years. Rich, a native of Auburn, obtained his bachelor's degree in journalism from Fresno State University. He worked at the Modesto Bee beginning in 1980 but left in 1984 to join the sports department at The Fresno Bee. Over the years, John took on larger roles within The Fresno Bee, including as Sports Editor, Metro Editor and Assistant Managing Editor, before his promotion to Managing Editor in 2015.

Throughout his time at The Fresno Bee, John worked to the highest journalist standards for accuracy and fairness. Every day, he guided reporters and photographers to tell the stories of the Central Valley. As an editor, he was intricately involved in the production of the daily news, from assigning stories to reporters to editing copy, writing headlines and choosing the makeup of the printed paper and digital reports. During his career, he evolved with technological advances and changes to the newspaper environment, but he never lost sight that his job was to deliver the news that matters to the people of the Valley, whether the latest details of a Fresno State Football game or an in-depth exposé on corruption at city hall.

Mr. Rich also leaves a legacy as a mentor and coach. He has been an inspiration for other journalists in the field. Jim Boren, former editor of the Bee, described it this way: "As we bid farewell to John Rich on his retirement, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on his illustrious career and thank him for his unwavering dedication to the pursuit of truth. John's true legacy lies in the countless aspiring journalists he has guided along the way. He has patiently nurtured their talent, instilled in them a profound respect for the power of words, and demonstrated the importance of journalistic integrity. He taught us kindness and humility and made everyone around him better." That sentiment is shared by the journalists he worked alongside.

John Ellis, former political reporter at The Bee, said: "In a world that often was frantic and chaotic, John was the calm at the storm's center. I don't think anyone worked harder and more coherently under pressure to ensure that, day after day, no matter how crazy the Fresno Bee newsroom got, no matter how many editors weighed in with suggestions, no matter how close to deadline stories kept evolving, the best, complete and most up-to-date news would publish—sans any leaps of logic, grammatical or punctuation errors. That takes true talent."

Bill McEwen, former reporter, columnist, and opinion page editor said: "John Rich is the hardest working editor that I've come across in my 45 years in journalism. His passion for

news, accuracy, and readers was unparalleled."

Barbara Anderson, award-winning health reporter for The Bee, said: "John Rich has been the steady, consistent and calm leader at The Fresno Bee for all the years I have known him as an editor. He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes—without a prominent byline—guiding the newsroom to deliver clear, complete, compelling and honest news. I can think of no one who has shown more dedication to the newspaper—to the communities of the San Joaquin Valley—and to the reporters, photographers and graphic artists who are honored to have called him a colleague. John's fingerprints are covered in news ink and readers in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley are far richer for the imprint he has made at The Fresno Bee.

Outside of journalism, John also gave back to the community as a volunteer, most prominently a coach and supporter of youth sports alongside Denise, and children, Andrew and Tori. His dedication to his family and to his community are equally impressive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Rich for his dedication and commitment to preserving community journalism. May we never forget his contributions and continue to be inspired by his legacy.

**RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: ED PRESTON**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Ed Preston, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles of accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Ed has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Ed has not only served our community but also transformed the lives of those around him. Ed was pivotal in raising \$220,000 to construct a memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War at the Middletown Veterans Memorial Park. Through these efforts, Ed strengthens the fabric of our district and proves that when driven by purpose, compassion, and an unwavering sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Ed that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of

many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Ed not just for his remarkable deeds, but for who he is—a true hero, in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Ed that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Their actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. They embody the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Ed for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May their example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

**REMEMBERING MARTIN NAGELKIRK**

**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Martin Nagelkirk, a dedicated educator and influential figure in agriculture, who passed away at the age of 70 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born on October 8, 1953, to Preston and Shirley Nagelkirk, Martin graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in agronomy and later earned a master's degree from Cornell University. He began his career as an agricultural extension agent in Onondaga County, New York, where he served for eight years before moving to Sanilac County, Michigan, in 1987. At Michigan State University, Martin became a prominent wheat educator and director of the local MSU Extension office, retiring in 2019.

For over 30 years, Martin made significant contributions to the wheat industry, especially in addressing the challenges of Fusarium head blight. Martin also had a pivotal role in helping farmers navigate these challenges, enabling them to increase yields and profitability. Martin co-founded the Great Lakes Wheat Watchers, promoting collaboration among researchers and extension professionals in the region.

Known for his humor, broad knowledge, and commitment to serving as a reliable resource for producers, Martin was deeply respected by all who worked with him. He and his wife Joan, married for 45 years, fostered a family built on love and shared experiences, including a passion for the outdoors.

He is survived by their children—Paul, Ryan, and Grant—along with their families, and many siblings, in-laws, and nieces and nephews. Martin's legacy will endure through the countless lives he touched in the agricultural community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember Martin Nagelkirk today, let us honor his remarkable contributions and the values he embodied—dedication, innovation, and a deep love for his family and community. His commitment to im-

proving the lives of others will be profoundly missed.

**CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Center. For five decades, the Women's Center has provided mental health counseling, support, and education to the metropolitan area to help people live healthy, stable, and productive lives.

Since its founding in 1974, the Women's Center has grown to include services to all gender identities, families, young adults, and children. They have strived to fulfill their mission to significantly improve the mental health and well-being of all members of our community. The Women's Center offers a range of services, like individual, couples, and family counseling, group therapy, education workshops and training, and domestic violence and sexual assault services.

In 2023 alone, they were able to reach over 3,500 people with 33,668 hours of service. Sixty-seven percent of those clients received services at a reduced fee or no cost. All 487 domestic violence survivor clients received free domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy services, with 96 percent reporting enhanced safety and 93 percent reporting improved mental health.

Over the past year, 1,459 community members received 20,772 hours of individual, couples, and family mental health counseling. The Women's Center also provided 7,887 callers with important information, including vital information about programs for children and teens, suicide prevention, behavioral and mental health, career programs, and more.

In addition to the mental health and counseling work the Women's Center does for their clients, they also host an annual Leadership Conference filled with speakers, breakout sessions, and opportunities to build strategic connections. This event is part of the education and career enrichment services that help people gain confidence in their skills to find paid work, achieve financial stability, navigate complicated legal processes, and improve work-life balance.

All of this incredible work is made possible by the staff, volunteers, and Board of the Women's Center. Over the past five decades, the Women's Center has expanded their programming, opened new locations, and updated their services as the needs of the community changed. This adaptability has been a strength for the organization throughout its history, and especially during the pandemic. The needs of their clients changed, as well as the vehicle to receive services, and the Women's Center was able to take that in stride and continue serving our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Center. The Women's Center has remained an incredible resource for our community because they are focused on providing trauma informed, caring, and compassionate care that is accessible to those who need it.

I thank them for all that they do for Northern Virginia and cheers to another 50 years.

**NORTHWEST DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—"WOMEN WHO SOAR"**

**HON. GREG LOPEZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of three outstanding women. Kara Baker, Donna Miller, and Karen Leigh will be honored by the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation as "Women Who Soar."

Kara Baker is a registered nurse in the cardiac catheterization lab at AdventHealth Littleton. Inspired by her father's heart surgery during her childhood, she pursued nursing, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2007 and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2009. Following her father's death from cardiac arrest in 2018, Kara became an advocate for heart health, organizing community screenings and donating Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to local schools. In 2023, she was nominated for a Nightingale Luminary Award and received a DAISY Award with her team for excellence in patient care.

Donna Miller is a Captain for American Airlines, flying Airbus A319, A320, and A321 aircraft. Notable experiences include serving as First Officer on an Honor Flight to Pearl Harbor for WWII survivors in 2016 and accompanying D-Day veterans to Normandy in 2019. She began her aviation career in South Korea, earning her private license while working for the Air Force, and has since flown various missions globally. In 2003, she represented Colorado at Kitty Hawk, where she flew Neil Armstrong during the Centennial of Flight celebration. Active in general aviation, she has flown WWII bombers for the Collings Foundation and served over 20 years as secretary of the Mile High Wing of the OX-5 Aviation Pioneers. Donna is passionate about aviation history and has collaborated with notable figures like Elrey Jeppesen and Louis Zamperini. Outside of flying, she uses her flight benefits to run marathons on every continent, including Antarctica.

Karen Leigh is an evening news anchor at a major CBS station in Denver, Colorado, serving over 1.8 million households since 2008. With over 25 years of experience in television, she has expertise in various areas of communications, conducting interviews with a wide range of figures from presidents to celebrities. Known for her calm demeanor, she excels at diffusing tense situations and has covered significant events, including natural disasters and mass shootings. She has won four Emmy Awards for her journalistic work, including coverage on child abuse and the 2008 Re-election.

In addition to her broadcasting career, Karen has been active in supporting non-profits, helping them raise funds and engage with communities. She is involved with several charities, including the American Heart Association and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver.

From saving lives to Emmy winning inspiration, this year's recipients have made a lasting impact on those around them and in our community. It is leaders like these women who will allow us to achieve a more prosperous and inclusive future, and I congratulate them all on being recognized as "Women Who Soar."

CELEBRATING THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NO. 413 WITH THE NOT FOR PROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE TONAWANDAS

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Knights of Columbus Council No. 413 as the Not For Profit of the Year recognized by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas.

As we celebrate its 125th anniversary, we pay tribute to a legacy of service and commitment that has spanned over a century. Founded on April 23, 1899, the Knights of Columbus Council No. 413 stands as one of the oldest councils in the country, a testament to the enduring spirit of brotherhood and charitable service that defines this organization.

With over 200 dedicated members, the Knights of Columbus Council No. 413 has become a vital institution in the Tonawandas, contributing to countless charitable efforts and events that enhance the lives of the community.

In 2021, the Knights of Columbus Council No. 413 generously donated over \$100,000 to a wide range of organizations. Their contributions to the St. Francis Food Pantry, Boys and Girls Club, Meals on Wheels, and the North Tonawanda Police Coats for Kids program are just a few examples of their commitment to addressing the needs of those less fortunate in our community.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the Knights of Columbus Council No. 413 and their exceptionally rich history today, let us acknowledge their unwavering dedication to serving others, and profound impact on our community, reminding us all of the power of collective action and the importance of giving back.

REMEMBERING SENATOR TIM JOHNSON

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Senator Tim Johnson, a dedicated public servant and honorable man who passed away on October 8, 2024. Senator Johnson served the people of South Dakota with integrity and passion. While Senator Johnson faced health challenges during his time in the Senate, his courage in overcoming those adversities deepened the admiration his colleagues had for him.

While we honor his many professional accomplishments, it is important to remember

that Senator Johnson was also a devoted family man. He was a loving husband to Barbara and a proud father to their children. His family was always his greatest source of strength, and he often spoke of how their love and support sustained him throughout his career.

My thoughts and prayers are with Barbara and the entire Johnson family during this difficult time. As we remember Tim, we reflect on his dedication, spirit, and kindness.

HONORING THE CAREER OF ADELA JONES

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Adela Jones, a beloved educator and leader of Sanger Unified School District over the last 36 years.

Adela Jones received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Fresno State and subsequently earned her Master's Degree in Bilingual Education from Fresno Pacific University. Thereafter, Ms. Jones kickstarted her teaching career and joined Sanger Unified shortly after as a classroom teacher in 1987. Since then, Ms. Jones has held many positions within Sanger Unified, including Reading Development Teacher, Elementary Principal, Area Administrator, and Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. Exhibiting excellent leadership capabilities along the way as both an educator and administrator, Ms. Jones was appointed to Superintendent of Sanger Unified in 2018.

Throughout her career in education, Adela has always demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the education and well-being of Sanger Unified students. One of her proudest achievements lies in the creation of a strong and dedicated team of teachers and staff who have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of their students. From the teachers in the classroom to the support staff behind the scenes, Adela has fostered a sense of unity and purpose within the district which has prompted every student to achieve academic excellence.

This aptitude for success has served Adela and the district well, especially when faced by challenges such as the unprecedented closure of schools due to the pandemic. The decision to keep students and teachers apart was undoubtedly one of the hardest moments of her superintendency, but it also brought about a sense of unity among her team. When tested with adversity, Adela's character and diligence prevailed as she guided the district through uncharted territory, ensuring the continuation of learning and supporting her community during these trying times.

Despite their trials, Sanger Unified has continued to achieve remarkable milestones under Adela's guidance. On July 1, 2022, the district officially opened the doors to their second comprehensive high school, Sanger West. This was in addition to the establishment of six community schools made possible through an \$8 million-plus implementation grant received under Ms. Jones' leadership. For their efforts and profound progress, the district has also been honored with numerous distinctions such as the nationwide recognition of all middle schools, Schools to Watch. These suc-

cesses are testaments of Adela's diligence but if you ask her, these accomplishments are attributed to her team, not herself.

As well as an exceptional educator, Adela Jones is also an inspiration. Whether it was singing in class or endowing them with knowledge, Ms. Jones always left a lasting impression on her students. Many of whom still cherish the influence she had on their lives and even followed in her footsteps to become employees of Sanger Unified. Adela's commitment to her students extends beyond the classroom as well, as her continual mentorship and support fosters their growth and achievements long after they have graduated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adela Jones for her dedication and commitment to improving the lives of many students through education. May we never forget her contributions and continue to be inspired by her legacy.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: GENE AND MICHELE RICE

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize extraordinary individuals from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with respect and admiration that I recognize Gene and Michele Rice, two of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Gene and Michele Rice have embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In their role as founders of the Plant a Seed Inspire a Dream Foundation, Gene and Michele have not only served our community but transformed the lives of those around them. They have dedicated their time and talents to inspiring, empowering, and encouraging less fortunate children to find their passion and pursue their dreams by providing scholarships for enriching opportunities. The couple works to pair children with mentors and positive role models—whether athletic, artistic, or academic—that will help them achieve their goals and create a foundation for a successful future. Since PAS was founded in 2008, over 700 scholarships have been awarded, and 700 children have had life-changing experiences and opportunities they may never have had. It is constituents like Gene and Michele that strengthen the fabric of our district and proving that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, two individuals can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Gene and Michele that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their service, given without expectation of recognition,

stands as a testament to the belief that one organization's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Gene and Michele not just for their remarkable deeds but for who they are—true heroes in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Gene and Michele Rice that our communities thrive and our Nation grows stronger. Their actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures, but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. They embody the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Gene and Michele Rice for their extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional couple, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May their example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

**HONORING DARIO RAVEANE ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dario Raveane, a remarkable American, veteran, and proud father who is celebrating his 95th birthday.

Dario was born on October 4, 1929, to Italian immigrants. Around two years old, his parents moved to California in search of work but quickly returned to Michigan to work for Ford Motor Company, who at the time was paying \$5.00 per day at the River Rouge Plant. At four years old, his parents shipped him to Italy for a brief period of time and, at just eight years old, Dario independently returned to the United States on the SS *Rex*—a highly frequented ocean liner.

In 1948—at 19—he graduated from the Henry Ford Trade School with a badge number of #1908. There, he specialized in learned machines and printing technology. From there, he received a recruitment letter from Ford Motor Company which he turned down because he had two months to graduate.

Dario's printing expertise became especially important as he considered enlisting in the military. His brothers Derno and Dino enlisted and Dario quickly followed by joining the Air Force. He received his basic training in San Antonio, Texas, and was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina.

Dario's primary role was to run the print shop and quickly became the Air Force's expert printmaker. There, he received "Airman of the Month" and a letter of recommendation from his Captain. While he was considered for Lieutenant, he chose to end his military career and return home to take care of his parents.

After his service, the position at the Ford Motor Company was filled. Using his skillset, he hit the beat to local print shops. For 11 years, he worked for the Rotary Manifold Forms Corporation—one of the first compa-

nies to print employee checks. From there, he worked for UForma—a printing company which he partly owned. For a time, he owned his own company, Midwest Business System, which sold a multitude of printing forms, computer products and accessories well before contemporary business giants and supply stores.

After his retirement, he returned to work at JCPenney in the men's suit department. Dario is known for his dress attire, and he jumped at the opportunity to share it with others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dario Raveane, a true embodiment of the American Dream, on his 95th birthday. His life story is a shining example of the American spirit, and we are grateful for his contributions to his community and to our Nation.

**RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2024 ARTSFAXFAIR ARTS AWARDS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize ArtsFairfax and the recipients of the 2024 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, individuals, and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the formally named Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. Today, ArtsFairfax operates programs and initiatives that include grant opportunities, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for arts and culture organizations.

ArtsFairfax envisions a thriving arts and culture community accessible to all of Fairfax County. To support this vision, ArtsFairfax awarded over \$591,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to 58 organizations for FY2025. Among those awardees, 81 percent are women-led, 28 percent have BIPOC leadership, and 24 percent are led by veterans. These figures reflect ArtsFairfax's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility when it comes to the arts. The Arts Awards honors supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Philanthropy Award, the Achievement Award, and the Innovation Award.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2024 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2024 Jinx Hazel Arts Award, ArtsFairfax's premier award recognizing an individual or organization whose vision and commitment has helped shape the cultural life of Fairfax County, will be presented to the Peterson Family Foundation.

The 2024 Philanthropy Award will be presented to Anne Kline.

The 2024 Achievement Award will be presented to Shu-Chen Cuff.

The 2024 Innovation Award will be presented to We Rock Cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2024

Arts Awards and recognizing the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

**CELEBRATING JOSEPH DALLOS WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR JOEY'S PLACE RESTAURANT BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE TONAWANDAS**

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Joseph Dallos, the owner of Joey's Place, as the Business of the Year recognized by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas.

Mr. Dallos' journey began in 1999 as owner and operator of Fortunata's Restaurant in the City of Buffalo. More recently, his culinary passion has transformed into Joey's Place, a restaurant that embodies his heart and soul. Joey's Place has truly evolved into an anchor for the City of Tonawanda business community—a beloved dining bar and meeting place where friends gather, families celebrate, and memories are made.

Together, with his children, Josh and Madison, Mr. Dallos continues to contribute to the community, making it a special and successful place to live, work, and play. His efforts remind us that a thriving business is not just about profit, but also about impact, connection, and commitment to the greater good.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize Joseph Dallos and his exceptional work at Joey's Place today, let us celebrate a venue where connections are forged and partnerships are built. Let us recognize his entrepreneurial spirit and his heart for the community.

**RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the 40th anniversary of the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Rail Corporation, better known as Metra.

In 1984—during the first Board meeting of the newly formed Commuter Rail Division—Metra was adopted as a unifying name for all the disparate parts that make up the regional commuter rail system. Forty years later, Metra is the fourth-busiest commuter rail system in the country and the largest outside of the New York City area. By unifying the historic rail lines that make up today's system, Metra has established itself as a lifeline to residents of Chicagoland who depend on it to get to work, school, health and other critical appointments, gather with friends and family, and access the wide range of activities our great city has to offer.

Earlier this year, I was pleased to assist Metra in securing federal funding for its Edgebrook Station Renovation project. Renovations include updating digital signage and

upgrading to a larger shelter for its riders. I was also proud to secure funding for the Metra O'Hare Pedestrian Pathway Design Project, to investigate and outline significant steps toward making the O'Hare Transfer Station more comfortable and accessible. This will help to position Metra's North Central Service line as an alternative for getting to and from the airport.

As the Ranking Member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, I would be remiss if I did not mention today's challenges facing the railroad. Capital funding has always fallen short of meeting the various needs tied to managing a legacy system. We must ensure funding levels meet the growing needs of our transit systems and fund improvements that will boost ridership and enhance efficiency.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and service Metra has provided over the past 40 years. I would also like to thank Metra's CEO and Executive Director, Jim Derwinski, for his work and leadership during his tenure at Metra. I look forward to continuing to work with Metra to ensure a lifetime of safe and reliable commuter rail service in Chicagoland.

**HONORING JON DUNN FOR HIS 31 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**HON. KATIE PORTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career of Jon Dunn, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties, who will be retiring in June 2025 after 31 years of dedicated service to our community.

Under his leadership, Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties has expanded its services to provide comprehensive health care to more than 250,000 patients annually. Jon has guided the organization through times of great progress and immense challenges, always aiming to increase access to essential reproductive care regardless of one's income, background, or insurance status.

Jon's commitment to reproductive health has transformed health care in our communities. During his tenure, Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties has expanded its reach by opening new health care facilities, increasing center operating hours, and launching innovative programs to address the needs of those the organization serves. His bold vision for reproductive justice has significantly increased access to essential health care services for the people of Orange and San Bernardino Counties.

Jon has also been a key figure in the national conversation about reproductive rights, contributing his voice and expertise to major policy discussions. He has played a crucial role in supporting patients who are forced to travel to California for abortion services after the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. His dedication to patient-centered care, advocacy for women's health, and fierce defense of reproductive rights has left a lasting legacy not just in Orange and San Bernardino Counties but across the United States.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Jon for his 31 years of service and leadership. His contributions have shaped the future of reproductive health in our community and strengthened the values of compassion, equity, and justice. I wish Jon all the best in his next chapter and thank him for his tireless work.

**HONORING THE CAREER OF CHIEF MARIO KRSTIC**

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Chief Mario Krstic for 37 years of fearless leadership and selfless service.

Despite being in law enforcement Mario Krstic's professional career actually began as an EMT with American Ambulance of Visalia. However, after losing a patient following a double homicide, Mario decided he wanted to take a more proactive approach to prevent others from experiencing the same. By 1986, Mr. Krstic was hired by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department as a correction deputy.

It wasn't until 1997 that Mario made his transition to Farmersville when he took on a patrol position for the city. To his delight, a high turnover rate the following year left him as one of the most experienced officers in the force resulting in a promotion to Lieutenant, and another to Police Chief on July 17, 1999.

When Chief Krstic first took the reins, Farmersville had a population of 6,500 and a police force that lacked stability. Without hesitation, Mario implemented his own community-oriented policing model with a focus on not only policing residents but serving them as well.

He carried this out by recruiting officers who were bilingual and better able to communicate with the predominantly Hispanic communities and reassure the residents that the department works for them. He also took great pride in that half of his officers were directly from Farmersville which allowed him to stabilize the department's top-end turnover and expand the force from 12 full-time officers to 16. He was the epitome of public safety, as one of the first chiefs in Tulare County to be a proponent of body cams in an effort to better protect the public and his officers. Additionally, he was successful in convincing the city council to hire a fire chief and even helped them find funding for one which is just now being realized as the Farmersville City Council took its first steps towards building a new fire station just recently.

Chief Mario Krstic consistently went above his call of duty as the Police Chief and even took on different positions to better serve the people of Farmersville. Throughout his 37 years in law enforcement and 24 years as the Chief of Police for the City of Farmersville, Mario Krstic has managed Police, Fire, and Code Enforcement. He has also served as Interim City Manager of Farmersville for over three years, sat as the Region 11 chair on the Board of Directors of the California Police Chiefs Association for 9 years, and is a two-time past President of the Tulare County Chiefs Association. In addition to this, Chief Krstic has sat on the Advisory Board of the Tulare Kings Police Academy and was an instructor with the Academy for over 14 years.

Chief Krstic is also an alumnus of the Sequoia Regional Leadership Program, IACP's Leadership in Police Organizations program, and holds a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice from Chapman University.

As the longest actively serving Chief of Police in the State of California, Chief Mario Krstic is invaluable to the City of Farmersville. He will enjoy his retirement in the company of his wife, Trish; their two children, Jacob and Amanda; and their two grandchildren, Gwen and Willow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the devoted career of Police Chief Mario Krstic for his commitment to protecting and serving the community. May we be inspired by his story.

**RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATES OF THE 162ND FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT RECRUIT CLASS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 162nd Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 33 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and eleven weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 162nd Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 162nd Recruit Class:

Oscar A. Arias, James M. Pack, Andy G. Avila, Luke W. Pavlovich, Matthew W. Barker,

Eliezer Pena, James K. Barr, Brandon L. Pfahler, Scott W. Ellison, Kaitlyn L. Roberts, Pablo J. Fabucci, Mohammad A. Sahib Zada, Joseph A. Fioramonti, Ian P. Salata, Connell F. Friel, Michael A. Scopellite.

Campbell K. Hunt, Joshua S. Shepherd, Mason L. Insiengmay, Isaac Z. Spar, Dominique M. Johnson, Andrew J. Sudlow, Jonesy K. Jones, Dylan P. Van Stry, Celeste N. Keeley, Michael D. Vito, Douglas M. Kyle Jr., James M. Whalen, Joshua F. Layman, Zhihong Wu, Connor G. Mullins, Ryan M. Zimmerman, Roman A. Olszewski.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present. Stay safe.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MAGGIE VERA GIBERT

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ms. Maggie V. Gibert on her 90th birthday. As she celebrates this milestone, her life story is a beautiful tapestry woven with love, resilience, and the rich traditions of her Southern upbringing.

Born on November 14, 1934 in Calhoun Falls, South Carolina, Ms. Gibert, born to Lucille and Hartley Hesteris, is a devoted mother of Michelle, grandmother of Aubrey and Azia, and great grandmother of Ayann. Ms. Gibert embodies the spirit of caring within her family and to everyone she meets.

After 37 years of service, Ms. Gibert retired from the Buffalo VA Hospital, where she dedicated her career as a medical transcriptionist and coder, earning her recognition for continuous improvement and excellence. Her contributions were not just a testament to her skill, but to her commitment to serving others—something she has done throughout her life.

Ms. Gibert is a devoted member of Mt. Zion Church of God Holiness, where her musical talents shine as she plays the piano for Sunday school and the Sunshine Band programs. Her faith and dedication to her community are evident in everything she does. In her leisure time, Maggie is a woman of many talents. She enjoys traveling, particularly on senior trips, and shares her passion for quilting by teaching at the William-Emslie YMCA. Her creativity extends to sewing, winemaking, and her culinary skills.

Today, we celebrate Ms. Maggie V. Gibert for being a truly remarkable woman who continues to live a fulfilling and rewarding life. Her warmth, generosity, willingness to always lend a hand, and her zest for life will surely live on for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: GLEN D. GOLEMESKI, II

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the late Glen D. Golembeski, II, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Throughout his remarkable life, Glen embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

A third-generation firefighter, Glen was a proud Doylestown native and graduate of Central Bucks East High School. Despite facing significant physical health challenges from an early age, Glen chose to embrace life with relentless positivity, meeting every obstacle head-on and never backing down—"can't" was simply not part of his vocabulary.

Inspired by the legacy of service left by his father and grandfather, Glen's commitment to his community began early. At just sixteen, he joined the Midway Volunteer Fire Company. His passion for helping others only grew from there, leading him to serve as an EMT Fireman with the Bryn Athyn Fire Company and Ambulance Service, an EMT for the Warminster Community Ambulance Corps, and a volunteer firefighter with the Midway Fire Company. Glen's service extended even further, as he became an invaluable member of the Newtown Ambulance Squad, Lingohocken Fire Company, and most recently, spent the last five years saving lives as an EMT with the Bensalem Rescue Squad.

Glen's life was defined by extraordinary resilience, selflessness, and a tireless dedication to protecting others. His impact goes far beyond the countless lives he touched—his legacy of unwavering service and courage is woven into the very fabric of our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of heroes like Glen that our communities stand strong and our Nation endures. Today, we honor Glen not only for his deeds but for the man he was—a true hero in every sense of the word. His life reminds us that real strength is found in service, and his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to the family of Glen D. Golembeski, II, for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May his legacy remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN "SCOTT" DEMUYNCK

**HON. LISA C. McCALIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mrs. McCALIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Chesterfield community, Brian "Scott" DeMuynck, who is retiring after a remarkable career of dedicated public service. His commitment to our community and its residents exemplifies the spirit of community engagement.

Brian DeMuynck is a proud lifelong resident of Chesterfield Township, with deep family ties to the area that span over 75 years. For 20 years, he has served on the Chesterfield Township Board as a Trustee, beginning on November 20, 2004. He has also participated on our Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission, tirelessly working to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

Professionally, Brian has had a distinguished career in law enforcement and public service. He started with the FBI in Washington, D.C., as a fingerprint examiner in March 1977. He then joined the Macomb County Sheriff's Office, where he served in various capacities, including deputy sheriff in the Marine Division, road patrol, and as an evidence technician in the crime scene unit from October 1977 until October 2002. He later became a criminal investigations assistant with the Sterling Heights Police Department in March 2002, where he continued to serve his community.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Brian was a successful entrepreneur, owning and presiding over Maurice DeMuynck Landscaping from 1988 to 2008. He is an active member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 187 and has enhanced his knowledge by attending various law enforcement classes at Macomb Community College.

During his time in office, Brian achieved significant accomplishments, including the implementation of Universal Waste Hauler contracts and the development of the Waterside Marketplace. He has always had strong support for parks and recreation initiatives that benefit both young families and seniors in his community.

Outside of his professional and public service commitments, Brian is an avid photographer, specializing in lighthouse photography, and enjoys boating—activities that reflect his love for the natural beauty of our region. His loyal dog, Bentley J, has been his right-hand companion throughout his journey. Brian is also a proud father to his son, Scott, and treasures his role as a grandfather to two wonderful grandchildren.

As Brian embarks on this new chapter of his life, we celebrate his invaluable contributions and the positive impact he has made on Chesterfield Township.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to Brian "Scott" DeMuynck for his years of service and dedication.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREA MID-DECADE CENSUS ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLÁN**OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would require the United States Census Bureau to conduct a census every five years in the U.S. insular areas of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This legislation is necessary because the priority, availability, timeliness, and types of data collected by federal agencies in the insular areas remains deficient compared to data collection in the states. Without accurate and timely information on changes in the economy, employment, income levels, and other key indicators, insular governments are hindered in the establishment of appropriate policy. And without these data, governments and the public are less able to assess the effectiveness of policies that have been established.

Every decade, the Census Bureau conducts a census throughout the country to determine the number of people living in the country. In the insular areas, detailed demographic, housing, and socioeconomic data is also collected in the decennial census using a “long-form” questionnaire consisting of about 75 questions. The decennial census conducted in the states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico only asks 10 questions because the vital information gathered in the decennial census is now acquired annually in the American Community Survey. Unfortunately, the American Community Survey does not collect critical data from the insular areas.

As an alternative to annual surveys, my bill would require the Census Bureau to conduct a mid-decade census in the insular areas. The bill starts the first mid-decade census in 2035 and in addition to the decennial census, a census will be conducted every five years. This will provide more current data in the insular areas, like that provided by five-year estimates produced by the American Community Survey. Having a mid-decade census will also enable insular governments and the Census Bureau to plan and conduct data collection efforts that are often logistically challenging in these diverse, remote regions.

I ask my colleagues for their support in achieving equitable statistical data collection for the territories.

## HONORING THE FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose, for 160 years of service, fellowship, and stewardship to the community of San Jose, California.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Mother Church, was founded in October of 1796 in New York City, New York.

Aptly named the Freedom Church, it fought for the emancipation of Africans in the United States during the institution of slavery, striving towards the dignification of enslaved persons.

The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose was founded in San Jose, California, in 1864, establishing itself as the first Black church in the area. Following in the tradition of the Mother Church, it represents the dignity, emancipation, and civil rights of all people regardless of ethnic background in the City of San Jose.

Arguably its most impressive effort, The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose emphasizes social justice advocacy. Throughout its extensive legacy, the Church has actively participated in social justice movements, addressing issues such as racial equality and community empowerment.

In addition to advocacy and spiritual development, The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose has accomplished various initiatives. The Church proudly hosts numerous community outreach programs, including health fairs, food drives, educational support for local youth, among other support services for those in need.

On November 10, 2024, The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose celebrates 160 years of accomplishments within the community of San Jose, California, and will continue to admirably exceed the needs brought forth by the community.

In closing, the 160th anniversary of The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose reflects the perseverance, dedication, and contributions of its members, leaders, and the surrounding community. It continues to make an indelible impact in the City of San Jose, leaving a legacy that will benefit future generations. I am proud and honored to celebrate The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose on the occasion of this impressive milestone.

## RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE 2024 CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM'S ANNUAL CELEBRATE DIVERSITY BANQUET

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on its 7th Annual Celebrate Diversity Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is “Celebrating a Community United for Justice” and will recognize the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia. The Centreville Immigration Forum has done tremendous work in Northern Virginia to support our immigrant community by implementing sustainable programs that provide immigrants in need with the means to improve their lives and become more integrated into the community.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly one in four residents are foreign born. More than 200 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation. Our variety of cultures and heritages do not divide us, they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this community and our Nation provide. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following 2024 Annual Dinner honorees:

## ELENA DE LEÓN

Elena De León is a Mayan Ixil woman from Nebaj, Guatemala. She is an entrepreneur, creator, and designer who makes clothing using traditional weaving. Elena combines her traditions with modern trends to design unique looks. Her clothing celebrates her culture, history, and preserves traditional loom weaving techniques. She brings life to her designs and her work brings visibility to her culture and traditions. She has traveled around the country to show her fashion, and she even had an opportunity to show in Dubai. She lives in Centreville, VA, and has been a member of Centreville Immigration Forum since 2018.

## JUAN ANDRES MASCUÑANA

Juan Andres, a citizen of Spain and a Pharmacist from the University of Alcala de Henares, worked as a Pharmaceutical Executive for over 35 years in several countries such as Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States (three time periods), Puerto Rico, and Switzerland.

His career in developing and manufacturing medicine included work with Eli Lilly (18 years), Novartis (12 years) and Moderna (6 years). After leading the global Novartis Manufacturing unit in Switzerland, Juan and his family moved to the Boston area to work for Moderna where he led the technical development and the manufacturing of the Covid vaccine for the world. As Moderna's VP and then President for Strategic Partnerships and Enterprise Expansion, Juan led his team in establishing the highest-quality production of more than 800 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine in one year, 2021.

Juan continues to be passionate about medicine, vaccines, and treatments for cancer since his retirement in 2023.

## KAROL ESCALANTE HERRERA

Karol is the Fairfax County Director of Immigrant Community Affairs. She is part of the One Fairfax team and has more than 15 years of experience working with key topics related to immigration, community engagement, public policy, diversity, inclusion, and strategic planning.

Karol is currently developing and implementing a comprehensive countywide plan for ensuring that Fairfax County is a welcoming community for immigrants with opportunities for integration, community well-being and economic success.

She served as a diplomat in the Foreign Service of Honduras for approximately 8 years, and her last post was in Chicago, IL, as Consul General of Honduras. During that time, she worked on daily bases supporting the Honduran community and developed new strategies to be able to create programs that will have a positive impact on Hondurans in areas like immigration, human and labor rights, education, and financial literacy.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region's cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship

and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY JORDAN-CHURCH**

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to honor the illustrious career of Mary Jordan-Church, who will retire after an extraordinary 41 years of unwavering service at the Veterans' Administration.

Mary's remarkable journey began on October 13, 1981, when she stepped into the role of Office Manager and Secretary at the Vet Center. Over the years, her commitment and dedication propelled her through a series of roles that reflected her unyielding dedication to our nation's veterans.

After a decade of efficiently triaging clients at the Office Manager position, Mary was elevated to the position of Counseling Assistant for her dedication and aptitude. In this expanded role, Mary's responsibilities included oversight over the organization's Community Outreach, where she represented the Vet Center at vital mental health meetings and became a steadfast voice for the veteran community.

Driven by a undying commitment to better serve veterans and manage crises effectively, Mary then embarked on a journey of education. Her pursuit for knowledge led her to Fresno City College, where she earned an associate degree in Alcohol Counseling, equipping her with critical skills to support those battling addiction. Inspired to make a lasting impact Mary continued her studies at California State University, Fresno where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree of Social Work in 2003.

During these years of academic pursuit, Mary navigated the delicate balance of raising her children with the support of her family. Her determination and dedication were further exemplified through intensive internships at esteemed organizations such as the Salvation Army, Avanti (a group home for boys), and the Mobile Crisis for Fresno County. Notably, her final internship took place at VACCHCS Mental Health, working alongside Drs. Nile and Howsepian.

These profound studies and experiences paved the path to Mary's appointment as a Readjustment Counselor in 2002. Soon after, Mary's continuous pursuit of excellence and knowledge culminated as she achieved the rank of Social Worker, coinciding with the completion of her studies in 2003.

Mary's dedication extended far beyond the confines of her professional responsibilities. She exemplified her commitment by participating in an impressive 35 Veterans' Day parades as a representative of the Vet Center. One such memorable parade took place in Sacramento, where she stood proudly, pushing a stroller carrying her youngest son, while waving the United States flag alongside her mother. Their presence was a testament to their unwavering support for veterans and their resolute belief in the values the flag represents.

As Mary embarks on a well-deserved retirement, her legacy of dedication, compassion, and unwavering support for veterans and their respective stories stands as a beacon of inspiration. Her journey, marked by perseverance and continuous growth, has left an indelible mark on the lives she has touched. As we bid farewell to a remarkable career, let us remember the profound impact that one individual can have on the lives of many, and let us honor Mary Jordan-Church's legacy by continuing to uplift and support our veteran community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in extending our deepest gratitude and best wishes to Mary as she embarks on this new chapter of her life. Her contributions will forever resonate within the halls of the Veterans' Administration and in the hearts of those who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

**HONORING LIEUTENANT WESLEY W. WILLIAMS AND PRIVATE JOSEPH PESIN**

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to solemnly honor two gallant Veterans, Lieutenant Wesley W. Williams and Private Joseph Pesin. Lt. Williams and Pvt. Pesin are to be recognized for their acts of gallantry during World War II at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Veterans Day ceremony on November 13, 2024.

On the day after the December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor attack, 56 members of the UCLA Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity met and voted unanimously to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Among those 56 men who enlisted, seven men including Lt. Williams, never returned home. Lt. Williams was listed as Missing In Action.

On April 5, 1945, a French Prisoner of War (POW), Pvt. Joseph Pesin wrote to the International Red Cross about a highly decorated, badly wounded American soldier who died in captivity in a German Prison Camp—Stalag IX. Pvt. Pesin described how this American soldier spoke about his college sweetheart, Patricia Lampton, a member of the UCLA Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, and the unborn child the couple were expecting. Pvt. Pesin stated that Lt. Williams' remains were buried in an unmarked grave outside the prison camp.

Before Lt. Williams lost his life, he exhibited bravery and fearless leadership during combat. While his platoon was under attack, Lt. Williams left his covered position to aid in the evacuation of the wounded and directed the withdrawal of his platoon. The soldiers that Lt. Williams saved in his platoon later liberated Dora-Nordhausen Concentration Camp.

At the UCLA Veterans Day ceremony, Lt. Williams' daughter, Diana Joyce (Williams) Klopfenstein, will receive the Flag of our grateful Country and her father's missing declassified Silver Star Commendation for Valor in Combat. Appearing with Diana is the only child of Pvt. Pesin, Madame Thérèse Mauclaire. Pvt. Pesin's compassionate act brought comfort to the lives of 21 families of

Allied soldiers buried in unmarked graves outside the prison camp.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in remembering these two brave men, Lt. Wesley W. Williams and French Private Joseph Pesin, for their heroic actions during World War II.

**RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO KATHLEEN TRAPENASSO**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Kathleen Trapenasso, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Kathleen has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

In her actions to raise awareness and funds to defeat ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Kathleen has not only served our community, but also transformed the lives of those around her. Kathleen unbelievably lost her husband, son, and two daughters to ALS in the span of just 30 months. Yet despite her heartbreaking personal losses, Kathleen has chosen to use her formidable strength to champion the cause of ALS research. She has worked to spread awareness and raise funds to defeat ALS through her team, Pat's Posse, named in memory of her husband and son who shared the name. It is constituents like Kathleen that strengthen the fabric of our district and prove that when driven by purpose, compassion, and a resolute sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Kathleen that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Kathleen not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Kathleen for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

## RECOGNIZING ALLYSON RENEAU

**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allyson Reneau, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Allyson Reneau is an international space consultant, successful business owner, coach of Olympic hopefuls in the sport of gymnastics, and the mother of 11 biological children. Allyson graduated summa cum laude from Harvard with her master's degree in international relations with a focus on NASA and the U.S. Space Program. She was nominated in 2019 by her professor as Harvard's Emerging Leader of the Year.

Allyson attended the NASA-sponsored International Space University and was asked to teach space entrepreneurship for ISU for several years. She has held internships at NASA Headquarters in Washington D.C., the FAA Commercial Spaceflight Office, and the U.S. Naval War College. Her award-winning Harvard thesis was published as a book and became the No. 1 new release on Amazon. It has been referred to as a framework for current U.S. Space Policy on NASA's return to the moon.

Her award-winning Harvard thesis was published as a book and became the No. 1 new release on Amazon. It has been referred to as a framework for current U.S. Space Policy on NASA's return to the moon.

Allyson is in high demand internationally to advise space-emerging nations on the importance of a national space program, speaking with country presidents, as well as members of their cabinets. She has been featured on radio programs and television networks, including NBC's Today Show, ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX, and in countless magazines and newspapers around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS WITH  
GEORGE MARK CHILDREN'S HOUSE**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I recognize George Mark Children's House, which will soon celebrate 20 years of supporting families and providing exceptional care for thousands of children with severe medical conditions.

George Mark Children's House (George Mark) was established in 1995 in San Leandro, California, as the country's first free-standing respite home for children. It was founded by Dr. Kathleen Nicholson Hull, who was inspired by the profound personal loss of her two brothers, George and Mark, to create a place where children and their families could receive comprehensive, compassionate care in a home-like environment.

George Mark is a model of compassionate care for children and young adults, provided in a fully furnished and comfortable facility. As the pioneer in the United States for providing

pediatric palliative care in a residential locale, George Mark has led the way for additional homes to adopt their comprehensive approach to caring for children with serious medical concerns.

In 1999, the George Mark team broke ground, and with the support of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the late Wilma Chan, the county secured and leased the land for \$1.00 a year. For two decades George Mark has helped to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and their families. George Mark's dedicated interdisciplinary team provides around-the-clock critical care and create an environment where their patients can still experience much of their childhood and make lasting memories with their families. George Mark prioritizes enrichment and finds ways to spark fun and joy for the families in their care.

For the past 20 years, George Mark and Dr. Hull have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence in providing children with exceptional, loving, palliative care. I join the past and present teams of George Mark in celebrating the legacy they've created and wish them many more productive years to come.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
AND YEARS OF DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF PARKLAND COMMISSIONERS  
BOB MAYERSONH AND  
KEN CUTLER**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the distinguished careers and retirements of two exceptional public servants from Parkland, Florida: Commissioner Bob Mayersohn and Commissioner Ken Cutler. Together, they have dedicated years of service to improving the lives of Parkland's residents and have left an indelible mark on the community.

Commissioner Bob Mayersohn was elected to the Parkland City Commission in 2016. Before being elected to office, he served as the Parkland Education Advisory Board Chair and a Planning and Zoning Advisory Board member. He also served as the President and has continued to be a board member since the inception in 2002 of the beloved Parkland Buddy Sports program. Bob played an instrumental role in the start of this successful program that continued to focus on children and young adults with special needs and volunteer opportunities for teens in the city. In addition to a list of his involvement in community services, he was the President of the Broward League of Cities, working with 31 cities and municipalities throughout the county to resolve problems affecting day-to-day municipal operations, including county, state, and federal legislation. Commissioner Mayersohn's vision and compassion will be felt in Parkland for generations, and his retirement marks the conclusion of a career defined by integrity and service.

Commissioner Ken Cutler was elected to the Parkland Commission in 2016. Years prior, he began his activism by joining the Parkland Friends of the Library and encouraged the Commission to build a new library in the city.

His devotion to the Library Building Committee was instrumental in moving to the new library building and expanding through the "Pave the Way to Reading" program, which led to the beautiful library we have today. Ken also led diverse community partnership programs with the Parkland Historical Society, which later brought the history of Parkland to light. His research discovered more about "Holmberg" of Parkland's Holmberg Road and recovered artifacts taken from Parkland's Margate Blount Archaeological Site, which brought the city's history back to the community. He distinguishably served Parkland, consistently demonstrating a commitment to transparency, fairness, and civic engagement. Commissioner Cutler's leadership will be greatly missed, but his legacy of thoughtful governance will always endure.

Together, Commissioners Mayersohn and Cutler have been dedicated leaders committed to enhancing the quality of life in Parkland through their tireless work on public safety, education, and community well-being. Their leadership was especially critical in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy, where they worked diligently to support the community and advocate for more robust safety measures and mental health awareness. Both Commissioners have dedicated countless hours to making Parkland a safer and more vibrant community. Their retirements mark the end of two illustrious careers in public service, and their contributions will continue to inspire future generations of civic leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Commissioners Bob Mayersohn and Ken Cutler on their well-deserved retirements and expressing our deepest gratitude for their many years of exemplary service. We wish them and their families all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 FAIRFAX'S  
FINEST VALOR AWARDS RECIPIENTS**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Fairfax. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe.

This year's ceremony will present awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Unit Citation Award, Individual Lifesaving Award, Unit Lifesaving Award, Silver Citizen Award, and Gold Citizen Award.

It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Unit Citation Award: Swiftwater 433; Captain John Jeniec, Lieutenant Scott Trottman, Master Technician Chris Cubbage, and Master Firefighter Derek Slusher.

Individual Lifesaving Award: Samuel Dee, Master Police Officer and Noah Glover, Officer.

Unit Lifesaving Award: Rescue Engine 433, Medic 403, Battalion 443; Assistant Chief Shawn Dunstan, Captain Jonathan Brantley, Master Technician Skylar Turnbull, Master Fire Medic Cory Gillespie, Master Fire Medic Tre Benefield, Lieutenant Tyler McLaurin, Fire Medic Eric Ransom, and Fire Medic Conor Ryan.

Silver Citizen Award: Cameron Welke.

Gold Citizen Award: Jim Etter.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2024 Fairfax's Finest Valor Awards Recipients and thank all of the men and women who keep our community safe. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES OGLETREE, JR.**

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to remember and honor the life of a remarkable individual, Charles Ogletree, a native of Merced, California, who ascended from humble origins to become a brilliant legal mind and a devoted champion of civil rights. Charles's legacy is one of tireless advocacy, inspirational mentorship, and unwavering dedication to justice.

Born in 1952 in Merced, Charles's journey began amidst the struggles of a migrant worker family. From these modest beginnings, he rose to prominence as a Harvard Law professor, leaving an indelible mark on the world of law and education. His steadfast commitment to civil rights and racial justice shaped his life's work, inspiring those around him to strive for equality and a more just society.

Known affectionately as "Tree" by his friends, Charles's impact extended far beyond academia. He stood at the forefront of pivotal moments in history, representing survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre and serving as Anita Hill's attorney during the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings. His authored works on human rights, race, and class left a lasting imprint on legal discourse and society at large.

Charles's connection to his hometown of Merced remained strong throughout his illustrious career. Even as he earned accolades at Harvard and beyond, he carried with him the values instilled during his upbringing in Merced. His commitment to his community was reciprocated when the local Superior Court building was named in his honor, a testament to his extraordinary achievements.

Charles's journey to become a legal luminary was shaped by his early fascination with the TV show "Perry Mason." Inspired by Mason's character, Ogletree embarked on a path that would see him become a trailblazer in his own right. His commitment to education and academic excellence propelled him from Merced High School to Stanford University, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science before receiving his law degree from Harvard Law School.

In his homecoming to Merced, Charles reflected on the profound influence his hometown had on his life's trajectory. He attributed his success to the friendships and mentors he found in Merced, acknowledging their role in helping him overcome challenges and reach new heights. Charles's journey came full circle when he welcomed the inaugural class of students to the University of California campus in Merced, emphasizing the importance of positive connections in achieving success. As we bid farewell to Charles, we honor his legacy of compassion, dedication, and service to humanity. His selflessness, both in the classroom and the courtroom, touched countless lives and inspired generations to champion justice and equality. Former President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama aptly described Charles's character as "unfailingly helpful and driven by a concern for others."

Charles Ogletree's life serves as a testament to the power of determination, mentorship, and the indelible impact a single individual can have on the world. He leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations to fight for justice, just as he did throughout his remarkable journey. Charles is survived by his beloved wife, Pamela Barnes. Their enduring partnership was built on a foundation of shared values and intellectual curiosity. His children, Charles Ogletree, III and Rashida Ogletree, stand as a testament to his legacy of excellence and dedication. Additionally, his cherished grandchildren, Marquelle, Nia Mae, and Jamila Ogletree, as well as Makayla George, reflect the warmth and love that he bestowed upon his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Charles Ogletree, an extraordinary legal scholar, mentor, and advocate who dedicated his life to advancing civil rights, racial justice, and the betterment of society. May his legacy inspire us all to continue the pursuit of a more just and equitable world.

**RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: TIMOTHY BESS**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinarily individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Timothy Bess, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Timothy has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

After visiting the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post 148 with his dad, William Bess a

U.S. Army Veteran, Timothy observed the Post's flagpole was weathered and deteriorating. During this trip, he was moved to make the remarkable decision to take action and give back to our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our community and country. Timothy went to work and began researching flagpole options, one that would be both worthy of our veterans and built strong enough to withstand the elements. Through his research, he was able to locate a beautiful 35-foot pole made out of brushed aluminum, strong enough to withstand weather and time, and even fastened with the rope inside to protect the pulling mechanism. He then spent six months working tirelessly to develop and orchestrate several fundraising efforts and coordinate with local businesses for the installation, landscaping, and creation of a new plaque. In total, Timothy raised over \$7500 to bring his vision to fruition for Post 148. Post Commander Walt Davidson said that seeing the flags wave from the shiny new flagpole for the first time was a welcome and bright sight.

It is the work of individuals like Timothy that reminds us of the power of the human spirit. His service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Timothy not just for his remarkable deed but for who he is—a true hero, in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Timothy for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May his example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

**HONORING RONALD CISCHKE OF GOODLAND TOWNSHIP**

**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual, Ronald Cischke, a longstanding pillar of the Goodland Township community in Lapeer County, Michigan. He has dedicated nearly his entire life to this vibrant community, serving it in various capacities with unwavering commitment and integrity.

Ron has spent an impressive 55 years as both the township supervisor and assessor, roles through which he has significantly contributed to the development and well-being of the township. Ron is the longest-serving supervisor in Lapeer County history. His professional journey has been diverse—he has farmed, owned a construction company, driven a milk truck, and worked for the Construction Code Authority. This breadth of experience has enriched the community he serves, fostering a spirit of hard work and dedication.

In 1959, Ron married his beloved wife, Ruthie. Together, they have raised three children and have been blessed with four grandchildren. Family has always been at the heart

of Ron's life, reflecting the values of community and service that he holds dear.

Ron has also made significant contributions to the Goodland Community Church, where he has been actively involved for over 30 years. As the Building Community Chairman and a member of the Board of Directors, he has helped guide the church in its mission to serve and uplift the community. Furthermore, Ron's commitment extends beyond the church; he has served on the Board of Directors for the Thumb Narcotics Unit, playing a vital role in addressing and mitigating the challenges of substance abuse in the region.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Cischke exemplifies the spirit of community service and dedication. His tireless efforts and compassionate leadership have made a lasting impact on Goodland Township and its residents. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ron for his years of service and to celebrate his contributions to our community.

**RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF INSIGHT MEMORY CARE CENTER**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr Speaker, I rise to congratulate Insight Memory Care Center (IMCC) of Fairfax, Virginia, on its 40th Anniversary, and to acknowledge the exceptional work this nonprofit organization has done in supporting individuals with memory-related impairments, as well as providing education and resources to their families.

Founded in 1984 as the Alzheimer's Family Day Center, IMCC was created to serve those who were overlooked by existing community services, particularly individuals in the middle to late stages of dementia and those facing behavioral challenges. The recent name change reflects its expanded mission, as IMCC offers a wide range of services beyond just Alzheimer's care.

Starting as an adult day health center with only three participants, IMCC eventually grew from a church basement to a spacious 15,000 square foot facility in 2015 that now serves over 50 individuals each day. In January 2022, IMCC marked a significant milestone by opening its second location, an Early-Stage Center in Sterling, Virginia. It is currently the only dementia-specific day center in the DC metro area and the sole adult day health center in Northern Virginia offering specialized programs for those in the later stages of Alzheimer's disease. IMCC envisions a community where individuals with memory impairments can enjoy a high quality of life, while their families and caregivers receive essential counseling, education, and support.

IMCC's innovative educational and support initiatives include caregiver classes, community trainings, professional seminars, support groups, individual consultations, and home visits. These programs empower family members to be effective caregivers and foster greater awareness and understanding of dementia within the community. I would like to express my gratitude to Executive Director Anita Irvin and the dedicated staff, whose diverse skills and backgrounds have positively impacted

over 1,500 individuals and countless families with their services.

IMCC's outstanding efforts have earned it well-deserved recognition, including multiple accolades as one of the "Best Small Charities in the Washington Region" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy, and the title of Adult Day Center of the Year from the National Adult Day Services Association.

IMCC exemplifies a leading organization that's highlighted the urgent need for our nation to increase investments in Alzheimer's and dementia care, treatment, and services. Their impactful work serves as a compelling reminder of the positive difference we can make when we prioritize this critical issue.

Mr Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating IMCC on 40 years of impactful service and in thanking its staff, volunteers, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to our community.

**HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the strong relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan and to recognize Kazakhstan's Republic Day.

Republic Day commemorates Kazakhstan's declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

Over the past 3 decades, Kazakhstan has transformed into a thriving nation with a strong economy, a growing international presence, and a robust partnership with the United States.

The relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States is rooted in shared values of democracy, economic growth, and mutual respect. As we celebrate Kazakhstan's achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to working together in addressing global challenges and promoting peace, security, and economic development.

In 2023, President Biden met with the Presidents of Kazakhstan and four other Central Asian nations at the inaugural C5+1 Summit during the United Nations General Assembly. Since its inception in 2015, the C5+1 platform has strengthened U.S.-Central Asia cooperation, advancing shared goals of regional security, economic resilience, and sustainable development.

The U.S. and Kazakhstan remain committed to accelerating regional cooperation and connectivity. This includes expanding trade routes, such as the Trans-Caspian Trade Route, and fostering a more favorable business environment for U.S. private sector trade and investment in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan remains one of the United States' most reliable and trusted partners, both regionally and globally, particularly as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This long-standing partnership highlights the importance of advancing efforts to establish Permanent Normal Trade Rela-

tions (PNTR), ensuring that Kazakhstan's economic growth is fully acknowledged and supported within the global marketplace.

As we look to the future, the United States and Kazakhstan are poised to deepen their partnership through continued dialogue, trade, and collaboration on shared goals.

Together, we are committed to fostering peace, security, and prosperity, not only in Central Asia but globally.

**RECOGNIZING HAYDEN JOSEPH KANG'S PERFECT SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (SAT) SCORE**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding academic accomplishments of a constituent from my district, Hayden Joseph Kang.

Hayden is a Senior at Council Rock High School South who regularly demonstrates a commitment to academic excellence, with this dedication culminating in him achieving a perfect score of 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) on November 4, 2023. Hayden demonstrated a proficiency in reading comprehension, including information and ideas, craft and structure, and expression of ideas, and mathematics, including a remarkable understanding of advanced mathematics, problem-solving and data analysis, algebra, geometry and trigonometry.

Hayden's performance on the SAT should serve as a testament to his intelligence and motivation. I am encouraged by his motivation to perform incredibly in his academic career, and I am proud to represent such a remarkable student in my district.

It is my hope that, by Hayden's example, students throughout my district and throughout the country are encouraged to challenge themselves academically, and endeavor to strive for excellence in every facet of their lives. Moreover, the example provided by young people, like Hayden, should serve as an inspiration to challenge ourselves and strive for excellence in every facet of our lives.

I would like to wish Hayden the best in his future endeavors, both academically and professionally, and once again congratulate him on his incredible performance on the SAT.

**RECOGNIZING RUSSELL MATAR AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH**

**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Russell Matar, who I named Veteran of the Month for October from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. Born on October 18, 1924, in Port Huron, Michigan, Russell was the second of five children. His journey began with resilience and dedication, culminating in his graduation from Port Huron High School in 1942, before he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943. His service during World War II took him to the

Mojave Desert, where he contributed to vital rocket experiments, and to the Marshall Islands, where he repaired aircraft electronics. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

In 1954, Russell married Ginger McDaniel, and together they built a loving family, raising two sons and a daughter, along with a growing number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Russell's professional career spanned over three decades with Montgomery Ward, where he made significant contributions throughout the Midwest. His commitment to community service was unwavering; he actively participated in local Chambers of Commerce and Merchants Associations. In Flint, Michigan, where he spent his later career, Russell left an indelible mark on the community. Notably, he served as Chairman of a committee that collaborated with then-Mayor Jim Rutherford to plan the inaugural Crim Race in Flint. Additionally, he dedicated six years to the Whaley Board for Children and served on the board of the YMCA.

As a devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint, Russell held the position of Vestry member and worked alongside First Presbyterian Church and Court Street United Methodist Church to establish the Ministry of Crossover Outreach. This initiative addressed the needs of the local community by providing clothing, food, and referral services.

Throughout his remarkable century-long life, Russell Matar has exemplified the core values of family, community, and service. His legacy of steadfast support and commitment to those around him truly sets him apart.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the life of Russell Matar, a true pillar of our community and a shining testament to the enduring spirit of service.

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HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN

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**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Republic Day of Kazakhstan, commemorating Kazakhstan's declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

Kazakhstan's early alignment with the West has significantly influenced its development. Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has transformed into a thriving nation with a strong economy, a growing international presence, and a robust partnership with the United States.

The relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States is rooted in the shared values of democracy, economic growth, and mutual respect. As we celebrate Kazakhstan's achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to working together in addressing global challenges and promoting peace, security, and economic development.

Kazakhstan continues to be a pillar of stability in Central Asia, emerging as a global leader in nuclear nonproliferation, peace-

keeping, and fostering regional cooperation. As a net contributor to peace and security not only in the region, but also globally, Kazakhstan is committed to addressing global challenges and promoting international stability.

As a religiously diverse country, it serves as a case study of peaceful coexistence. Kazakhstan hosts the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which has become an important venue for fostering dialogue among various faiths and serves as a unique platform for interfaith and intercultural cooperation. At a tumultuous time in the world, this event serves as an important opportunity for faith leaders to work to promote and protect freedom of religious expression and worship in Kazakhstan and in all nations.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's commitment to political and societal reforms is commendable. Despite external pressures, Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia, exemplifying its dedication to democracy and Western ideals.

Kazakhstan remains a reliable and trusted partner of the United States, particularly as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This long-standing partnership highlights the importance of advancing efforts to establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), ensuring that Kazakhstan's economic growth is fully acknowledged and supported within the global marketplace.

As we look to the future, the United States and Kazakhstan are poised to deepen their partnership through continued dialogue, trade, and collaboration on shared goals. Together, we are committed to fostering peace, security, and prosperity, not only in Central Asia but on the global stage.

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RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. SEAN CASTEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metra Commuter Railroad on its 40th anniversary of providing reliable, affordable, and safe transportation services throughout the state and for residents of Illinois' 6th Congressional District.

In the last forty years, Metra has made significant progress revitalizing and rebuilding stations, tracks, and signals, purchasing new locomotives and railcars, and modernizing and stabilizing and expanding services across the region. Metra also provided a crucial lifeline during the global pandemic.

I commend Metra on these advancements and was proud to lead the Illinois Delegation's support efforts for its recent Federal Transit Administration's Rail Vehicle Replacement Program grant application. Metra was selected as one of only three recipients nationwide to receive a grant. This \$100 million federal investment will support the procurement of new, multi-level railcars to replace those from the 1970s and improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility to all passengers boarding Metra trains.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the dedicated professionals at Metra who have continuously serviced Illinois with

vital transportation as they celebrate forty years of service. I thank Metra Commuter Railroad, and wish them a happy anniversary.

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RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: VALERIE HAMILTON

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**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Valerie Hamilton, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Valerie Hamilton has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Since 2012, Valerie—owner, founder, and executive director of Children of God Educational Services—has been a driving force in transforming early education and childcare in Bristol Borough. With a relentless focus on strengthening family bonds and immersing children in rich, local experiences, Valerie has built more than a childcare service—she has cultivated a foundation for lifelong success. Every day, Valerie and her devoted team go above and beyond to provide children with the skills, opportunities, and confidence they need to thrive. Through her carefully crafted Preschool, After School, and Summer Camp programs, she not only enriches young minds but also offers critical support to working parents, empowering families to succeed.

Valerie's mission is rooted in more than education—she shapes character, instilling integrity, compassion, and a deep sense of community in every child she serves. Her unwavering commitment to high-quality care and her ability to inspire and uplift have left a lasting mark on countless children and families. Her work is not just childcare; it is a beacon of hope, opportunity, and purpose, changing lives and building a stronger future for our community.

It is through the work of people like Valerie Hamilton that our communities thrive and our Nation grows stronger. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Valerie Hamilton not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Valerie Hamilton for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership

and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

THE INVASIVE SPECIES RESPONSE  
ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a critical and growing challenge that severely impacts our environment and has widespread ripple-effect consequences beyond invasive species.

This challenge threatens the delicate balance of our ecosystems, as invasive species can outcompete, prey on or introduce diseases to our native flora and fauna. The consequences of these disruptions are severe, leading to declines in biodiversity, diminishing the resilience of our ecosystems in the face of environmental change. These effects in turn can cause widespread economic damage; agriculture and forestry would be just two examples.

Hawaii in particular faces unique challenges from invasive species. Its isolation has led to the evolution of many endemic species that are found nowhere else on Earth. Unfortunately, these native species often lack the defenses to compete with or resist the pressures of invasive plants and animals, which can rapidly alter ecosystems and displace local species. In Hawaii, invasive species have caused significant ecological damage, threatening the survival of native birds and plants. Protecting Hawaii's unique biodiversity is not just an environmental necessity—it is a cultural imperative that reflects the identity and heritage of the Hawaiian people.

Invasive species are not just a localized problem; they pose a significant threat to the integrity of our natural world. Addressing this crisis requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach, focusing on prevention, early detection, and effective management strategies to safeguard our vulnerable ecosystems.

In response to this urgent need, I am jointly introducing the Invasive Species Response Act with my colleague, Rep. JIM MOYLAN of Guam. This legislation will codify the existing Invasive Species Strike Teams program currently operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). These specialized teams play an essential role in managing emerging invasive species, employing strategies tailored to local conditions across the National Wildlife Refuge System. With 21 teams strategically positioned in various FWS regions, they are on the front lines, addressing the unique challenges posed by invasive species.

The Invasive Species Response Act signifies a transformative shift within the FWS, moving us from a reactive, species-by-species approach to a more strategic, system-wide framework for managing emerging invasive species. Key provisions of the bill include formally establishing the Invasive Species Strike Teams program, which will create a stable and legally supported framework to ensure consistent funding and enhance our management efforts. The act also mandates enhanced co-

ordination and reporting through integrated systems and standardized procedures, ensuring transparency and enabling us to track progress with annual reports to Congress and the public. Furthermore, it authorizes \$15 million annually from Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029, aligning with current FWS investment levels to support ongoing initiatives.

This legislation is a crucial step forward in protecting our natural resources and enhancing our capacity to respond swiftly to the threats posed by invasive species.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support to our Invasive Species Response Act. Together, we can ensure the preservation of our ecosystems and promote a resilient future for our environment.

Mahalo.

CELEBRATING BRAD JACKSON'S RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor, recognize, and congratulate my good friend, business leader and builder, devoted public servant, and Kosciusko County Commissioner Brad Jackson as he prepares to retire as County Commissioner at the end of this year after 28 years in elected office.

Brad has been a close personal friend of mine for more than a decade and a committed and effective champion for all things Kosciusko County for even longer. From his work as a second-generation homebuilder and experienced business owner to his service in elected office, Brad's long-standing commitment to meeting the needs of Kosciusko County Hoosiers has been deep and unwavering. Quite simply, Brad is the kind of person that you want in your corner and serving in government and making decisions that affect people's lives.

Brad's belief in and adherence to conservative principles and values has helped keep Kosciusko County growing and on the move during Brad's nearly three-decade tenure as County Commissioner. Fiscal discipline, low taxes, preventing unnecessary regulations on businesses and job creators, and support for law enforcement and keeping crime low have all been hallmarks of Brad's approach to politics and public service. Most of all, his love for community, his family, and God has kept Brad grounded in the things that matter, and it has made him a leader who is admired and respected by so many.

As Brad's career in public life comes to a close, I am reminded of the saying "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." I believe this quote applies uniquely well to County Commissioner Brad Jackson. The Kosciusko County community is unquestionably better off thanks to this good man with a servant's heart. Brad has not only built countless construction projects in his career, he has also built an incredible legacy and a stronger foundation for Kosciusko County to stand and grow upon going forward.

I join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our grati-

tude to Brad for his many years of dedicated service. I wish Brad a very happy retirement and him, his wife Lynnette, their two sons, and their extended family all the very best going forward.

COMMEMORATING THE ST. LOUIS ALUMNAE AND SAINT LOUIS METROPOLITAN ALUMNAE CHAPTERS OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, along with the people of St. Louis, I rise today to honor and recognize the esteemed Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., particularly the members of the St. Louis Alumnae Chapter and the Saint Louis Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter, on the occasion of Delta Day, celebrated on October 18, 2024, in the City of St. Louis.

Founded in 1913 at Howard University by 22 courageous collegiate women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has been a beacon of social justice, leadership, and public service. The Founders' first public act—marching alongside the suffragettes to achieve voting rights for women—set the tone for more than a century of advocacy and action. Today, the sorority continues to be a transformative force in communities across the globe, guided by the powerful theme: Forward With Fortitude: Engaging Our Sisterhood, Empowering Our Communities, Elevating Our Impact.

The St. Louis Alumnae Chapter and Saint Louis Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter have proudly embodied the sorority's mission of service and advocacy in our region. Their dedication to public service has improved countless lives in St. Louis, as they have stood in the vanguard of social, educational, and economic justice. Whether it is through mentorship programs, voter engagement initiatives, or charitable efforts, Deltas are at the heart of helping to make our communities stronger.

On this Delta Day, we recognize our remarkable Deltas for their tireless efforts and lasting contributions. As they gather together, we honor their ongoing work to safeguard the legacy of those who came before them and to build a better future for those who will follow.

On behalf of Missouri's First District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and in recognition of October 18, 2024, as Delta Day in the City of St. Louis. May we continue to support and uplift each and every member and the communities they so passionately serve.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO: AMY KEIPER-SHAW

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—

someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Amy Keiper-Shaw, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Amy has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

A licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified Grief Counselor, Clinical Thanatologist, and Certified Dementia Practitioner, Amy has dedicated her life to providing care, comfort, and compassion to others in our community in challenging times of need. Throughout her career, Amy saw first-hand the heartbreaking suffering of children who lost a loved one and recognized a need for a positive, compassionate and effective bereavement resource for children and their families in our community. And so, in 2013, her non-profit, Hands Holding Hearts, was born and has since become a beacon of comfort and hope for Bucks County children and families as they navigate some of the most painful and difficult times of their lives. Studies show that one in 12 kids will lose a parent or sibling by the age of 18, with that rate only increasing since the pandemic. Without the necessary support and resources to process their grief, children are left without the tools and skills needed to successfully and positively move forward. Through workshops, Camp Feeling Better Summer Camp, counseling, support groups, and community presentations, Amy and her team of experienced counselors provide children with vital education and resources for coping and communicating and the invaluable comfort of knowing they are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Amy that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Her efforts remind us of the power in making a positive difference in the lives of children and families in need.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Amy for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

**HONORING DAVID JAKUBASZEK WITH THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE TONAWANDAS**

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Mr. David Jakubaszek. It is with deepest respect and heartfelt remem-

brance that we recognize Mr. Jakubaszek for posthumously receiving the Outstanding Service Award by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas.

Mr. Jakubaszek's journey began in the City of North Tonawanda, where he grew up and cultivated a love for his community that would guide him throughout his life. After pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Pennsylvania, he was commissioned into the U.S. Army—a testament to his commitment to service. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, Jean, and together they built a family that included their four cherished children: Jennifer, Michael, Thomas, and Joseph.

Mr. Jakubaszek's legacy also includes 38 years of service as the Accountant of the City of North Tonawanda, a trustee of the public library, an usher at the Riviera Theater and other various leadership roles throughout the community.

David Jakubaszek's legacy is not just in the positions he held or the time he volunteered, but in the countless lives he touched with his kindness, generosity, and unwavering support. He embodied the spirit of community, showing us all what it means to give of oneself for the betterment of others. His love for life and his dedication to service will forever be an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor David Jakubaszek today, let us remember him not only for his outstanding service, but also for the values he instilled in each of us—values of compassion, dedication, and the importance of lifting one another up. While he may no longer be with us in body, his spirit lives on in the community he cherished so deeply.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY FITZGERALD**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mary "Marie" Fitzgerald of Norwich, Connecticut. Mary passed away peacefully on October 5, 2024, at the age of 99. As a lifelong resident of Union Street, she was a pillar of the Norwich community, touching countless lives in her almost half-century of service as a teacher.

Mary was born on December 14, 1924, in Norwich, Connecticut, to William and Kathryn Fitzgerald. Her father was an amazing person, whose legacy of public service lives on at the local, state, and federal levels. He grew up in a first-generation Irish American family, went to work in a foundry at the age of 15, and because of his work ethic, became a foreman, was elected Mayor of Norwich, and in 1936, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. As a freshman member of Congress, he succeeded in passing the National Apprenticeship Authorization Act—"The Fitzgerald Act" which set national standards for apprenticeship training that still is the law of the land. He returned to Connecticut and served in WWII on the Connecticut War Production Board, which produced military equipment (submarines, aircraft engines) that was instrumental to the success of the allied nations. As his daughter, Mary grew up close to all the action of such a dynamic leader.

After her family returned to Norwich from Washington, Mary too chose a path of public service, albeit in a different form.

After completing her education, Mary dedicated her life to early childhood education and the profession of teaching. For many decades, she worked as a kindergarten teacher, helping to shape the minds of generations of children. Mary led with compassion and went above and beyond to create a caring and supportive environment for each student who entered her classroom. She helped instill a love of learning for an incredible number of students who will not soon forget her impact.

Mary loved her neighborhood and the people around her. Outside of her work as a teacher, she thoughtfully devoted her time to charities throughout the community as well as her church. Mary also served as a devoted Parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Patrick, attending mass every day and attending virtually when she could no longer attend in person. She was also a member of the Rosary Altar Society and the Connecticut Alpha Delta Kappa Chapter, a fraternal organization for teachers.

In her free time, Mary was adventurous and loved to have new experiences. Starting in 1969, she traveled with her best friend Phyllis. Together, they saw several countries and six different continents, finding favorites in Ireland, Japan, Bermuda, and New Zealand.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent constituents like Mary. Her friends and family remarked that Mary had an infectious love for life and emulated devotion to her community. She was a beloved teacher and community leader, and we can take solace in the knowledge that she has left a legacy through each and every one of her students and the countless individuals who knew her. She is survived by generations of cousins including Mary "Betsy" Clarke, Heather Anderson, and Adam Clarke and their respective families. Mary is also survived by her neighbor, David Bonneville. I request that my colleagues honor Mary's life of service.

**HONORING VIDOR POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR HEROIC ACTIONS**

**HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor two exceptional officers from the Vidor Police Department, Officer Michael Stephenson and Officer Ashton Moss, for their courageous, life-saving actions in the face of a family's worst nightmare. Their swift and selfless response is a shining example of the best that law enforcement has to offer—timely heroics in the service of others.

In the early hours of Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 1:49 AM, the Vidor Police Dispatch Center received a call about a residential fire with reports of children trapped inside. When Officers Stephenson and Moss arrived on the scene, they wasted no time. Spotting an air conditioning unit in the window of the children's room, they immediately began working to dislodge it, knowing every second counted.

Officer Stephenson managed to remove the window unit, and with the help of Officer

Moss, they reached inside and pulled out two young children—a 7-year-old and a 9-year-old. Just moments after they rescued those precious kids, flames erupted from the window.

I thank Officers Michael Stephenson and Ashton Moss, for their bravery, speed, and dedication. Their actions embody the true spirit of Southeast Texas—courage, selflessness, and a deep commitment to protecting others. It is an honor to represent them in Congress, and their heroism sets an example for us all.

COMMEMORATING THE SMITH COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NATHANIEL MORAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Smith County Medical Society Alliance, an organization that has strengthened, supported, and served medical families in and around Tyler, Texas, since 1934. Their dedication to nurturing and encouraging a healthy community has not been overlooked.

Over the years, the SCMS Alliance has provided countless educational and supportive opportunities, events, and projects for the citizens of Smith County.

The SCMS Alliance has distributed over \$1 million in medical student scholarships to students at Tyler Junior College, the University of Texas at Tyler, and UT Tyler School of Medicine. Their Junior Health Ambassadors project focuses on providing physician children with ways they can serve Smith County. The Youth Leadership Council aims to develop leadership skills among local high school students. The SCMS Alliance has also collaborated with TMAA to sponsor book vending machines at elementary schools.

Members of the SCMS Alliance are primarily spouses of active and retired physicians, as well as physicians themselves. Physicians and their spouses make significant sacrifices to serve and care for others, and it is a privilege to honor their selflessness. These members use their time impactfully to serve Smith County, offering their support to doctors and doctors' families. And for that, I am once again proud to be an East Texan, where people put others before themselves.

I would like to thank President Renee Wright, the SCMS Alliance Board, and all the members of the Smith County Medical Society Alliance for their outstanding work over the years. I am delighted to congratulate the Alliance on 90 years of service to Smith County.

RECOGNIZING MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF J. SCOTT BENDIG'S RETIREMENT AFTER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary public servant, Chief J. Scott Bendig, on the occasion of his retirement from the Montgomery Township Police Department after 35 years of dedicated service to the Montgomery Township community and the field of law enforcement.

Chief Bendig was born and raised in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. He began his journey into public service by graduating from Bishop McDevitt High School in 1985. He then pursued higher education, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University followed by his completion of the Pennsylvania State Police Academy. Chief Bendig's passion for law enforcement was matched by his commitment to continuous learning, as evidenced by his earning a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from West Chester University and his graduation from the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. These experiences further solidified his credentials as a leader in public safety.

Chief Bendig dedicated his entire 35-year career in law enforcement to the residents of Montgomery Township. During his tenure, he rose through the ranks, starting as a Recruit Patrol Officer in 1989 before serving as a Canine Officer and Unit Supervisor, Corporal in 2000, Sergeant in 2001, and eventually Deputy Chief in 2010. In 2012, he became Chief of Police, where he embodied professionalism, integrity, and a tireless commitment to the safety of the community.

His auxiliary duties included serving as a DARE Officer, DARE Officer in Charge, and Field Training Officer, as well as creating and instructing the Citizens Police Academy and teaching at various police academies. Chief Bendig's commitment to education extended to the classroom. He worked as an Adjunct Faculty member at Gwynedd Mercy University, and as a General Instructor for the Municipal Police Officer Education and Training Commission for over a decade. These teaching roles highlight his dedication to nurturing the next generation of law enforcement professionals.

Under Chief Bendig's leadership, the Montgomery Township Police Department experienced significant advancements in both its operational capabilities and technology infrastructure. One of his most impactful initiatives was the implementation of the Body Worn

Camera system, a crucial tool for promoting transparency and accountability. He also led the deployment of Fixed License Plate Readers, which enhanced the department's ability to monitor and respond to criminal activity more effectively.

Chief Bendig's leadership extended far beyond the borders of Montgomery Township. He served as Commander of the Montgomery County Major Incident Response Team, playing a key role in handling critical incidents across the region. He also contributed significantly as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the township, ensuring preparedness for major emergencies. His leadership roles within law enforcement associations are equally impressive, having served as Executive Chair and President of the Police Chiefs Association of Montgomery County and as a member of the National Security Executive Board for the FBI Philadelphia Field Division.

In addition to his leadership in public safety, Chief Bendig was a trusted instructor and advisor. He served as a Training Committee Chair for the Eastern Pennsylvania FBI National Academy Associates and as a peer reviewer for the United States Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. His involvement in the Montgomery County Racial/Ethnic Disparities Task Force further underscores his commitment to fostering fairness and inclusivity in law enforcement.

Throughout his career, Chief Bendig was recognized with numerous awards and commendations. His accolades include two Unit Citations, two Commendations for Merit, and a Certificate of Commendation, along with countless letters recognizing his commendable service and leadership. His influence extended beyond Montgomery Township, as he served as an instructor and advisor to various law enforcement organizations ensuring his knowledge and experience were shared widely.

What truly distinguishes Chief Bendig, however, is his sincere dedication to the welfare of his officers and the community. He fostered a culture of excellence within the department, constantly challenging younger officers to strive for their full potential. His legacy of leadership is marked by both his technical acumen and his unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of law enforcement professionals.

I am confident that his impact on Montgomery Township will be felt for many years to come. His selfless service, exemplary leadership, and lasting contributions will forever be a part of the community's history.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Chief Bendig for his years of devoted service and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.