

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEPUTY CONSTABLES
NOLAN BAGWELL AND OMAR
ABUABARA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Collin County Deputy Constables Nolan Bagwell of Dallas and Omar Abuabara of Roanoke for their heroic actions.

On May 6, 2023, a gunman entered the Allen Premium Outlets in Allen, Texas and indiscriminately fired on shoppers, moving methodically through the parking area and promenades of the outlets, shooting 15 people in a matter of minutes. Constables Bagwell and Abuabara were among the earliest first responders on scene, working without hesitation to locate the shooter and secure the area.

Deputy Constables Bagwell and Abuabara moved systematically through stores in the outlet mall, clearing each while ensuring the safety of the individuals inside. After another Allen police officer neutralized the shooter, Bagwell and Abuabara continued to secure the entire premises before assisting with the evacuation of thousands from the premises.

The selflessness and bravery displayed by Deputy Constables Bagwell and Abuabara as they put the safety of others first reflects great credit upon themselves, North Texas, and the State of Texas.

CONGRATULATING THE WRAY
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wray High School Football team for winning the 1A State Championship with an undefeated record.

Their overwhelming victory over Forge Christian, another undefeated team heading into the championship, is a testament to the teamwork and determination of each and every member of the team. I say thank you to the players for setting an example that will serve as an inspiration for future generations of high school athletes. They should all be extremely proud of what they have accomplished and know that this is just a precursor for the many great achievements that each of them will have in their lifetimes.

I am honored to celebrate with the team and wish them all the best in their future seasons and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO RICH HEDGES

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rich Hedges, Councilmember for the City of San Mateo, California, upon the conclusion of his tenure on the City Council after over five decades of community involvement and advocacy in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I am honored to have worked alongside Rich on countless occasions and to call him a friend. He embodies the idea of living by your values and service to others.

Rich was born in Kansas City, Missouri, where he was raised in a working-class family. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Emporia State University, before earning a Master's Degree in American Urban History from San Francisco State University. He moved to the City of San Mateo in 1970 where he and his wife Linda have lived for over 50 years and become invaluable members of the community.

In 1974, Rich began a passionate, 28-year career in labor advocacy working for the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union. He rose to the position of Executive Assistant to the Director of Region Eight, and his tireless work supported labor rights of workers across Northern California and Hawaii.

Outside of his professional career, Rich demonstrated extraordinary commitment to public service in his community. He has served on several boards, committees, and commissions throughout the region, including the San Mateo County Housing and Community Development Commission, the San Mateo Personnel Board, the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board, the Policy Advisory Council to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and many others. He is a warm and familiar face to many in his community, serving on the Neighborhood Watch Board and as a representative to the United Homeowners Association.

Rich applied his wealth of expertise in labor advocacy as a member of the Executive Board of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council. Additionally, he has volunteered countless time to advancing critical measures to support the City of San Mateo's fiscal stability and community engagement activities. Through these various initiatives, Rich has worked tirelessly to ensure that San Mateo remains a safe and vibrant place for its community members to live and thrive.

Throughout the years that he has resided in San Mateo, Rich has developed deep roots in his chosen community in the Bay Area. He is an active member of the Hillside United Methodist Church, continuing the practice of faith that has been carried in his family for five generations. Rich and his wife have raised their family in San Mateo, which includes their daughter, three adult grandchildren, and two

great-grandsons, symbolizing his commitment to his community's future.

Rich's thorough and methodical research of policy is unsurpassed. He is the consummate gentleman in conveying information, even when others may disagree, and his delivery is such that it allows for engagement and careful consideration.

While his time on the City Council was brief, his history in San Mateo County is immense and we're grateful for his leadership in so many selfless capacities. Rich treats everyone equally. His tone is always respectful. He's inquisitive. He's always looking out for the best interest of the community and can be counted upon to actually follow through on his commitments. I believe we can all benefit from learning from Rich's collaborative approach to governance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary service to the public that Rich Hedges has presented throughout his distinguished career. All of the lives that he has touched, including mine, are better off because of his dedication and commitment.

HONORING THE CAREER AND
WORK OF JON DELANO

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, sometimes, our local TV reporters and anchors are so rooted in the community they cover that they feel like a part of the family.

To many in Western Pennsylvania, including me, longtime KDKA Money & Politics Editor Jon Delano was a trusted voice for our community. Last month, he retired from his job of over 30 years serving as Channel Two's political analyst.

Known for his classic "I'm Jon Delano" closing line, he had a powerful ability to melt down a complicated issue to make it understandable to any audience.

And over the decades with this skill, Jon rarely failed to land the interview and ask Presidents, Cabinet Members, U.S. Representatives, and Senators the questions that mattered to the people of Western Pennsylvania.

Apart from reporting at KDKA, he has also worked in government—including as Chief of Staff to former Pennsylvania Congressman Doug Walgren.

Jon also practiced law and taught at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Information Systems & Public Policy.

Jon has won numerous awards for his work, including the Edward R. Murrow Award for the best "hard news" story in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

Jon also volunteers for several community organizations, often moderates and facilitates seminars, and is active in his church.

● 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.

I'm proud to have Jon and his wife Jane as my constituents in Mt. Lebanon, and I thank him for his decades of service to my community, to my region, and to our great country.

I wish Jon good luck and the very best in this next chapter.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MARIE CHESTER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Evelyn Marie Chester of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Mrs. Chester was born on November 12, 1924, in Paducah, Texas, to John and Thaddie Campbell Cranford. At a young age, her family relocated to Hopkins County, where she attended Liberty School and was a member of the Liberty Baptist Church. On April 22, 1939, Mrs. Chester married the love of her life, Thomas Mervin Chester. Over the next 65 years, they raised four amazing children and had many more grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mrs. Chester began her career working at the H.D. Lee Factory's Lettering Department. As a result of her dedication and hard work, she quickly rose up the ranks to become the Inspector Supervisor. During this time, she was most proud of making clothing for famous Hollywood actors and for the Texas State Fair. Mrs. Chester was also a dairy farmer who harvested corn and cotton. For over five decades, she regularly volunteered to spend time with and help residents of the Sulphur Springs Health and Rehabilitation center. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, crocheting, quilting, and completing yard work. Mrs. Chester humbly credits her longevity to living a Christian life, uplifting others, and eating good food.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Chester's incredible life and journey. May god bless Mrs. Chester on 100 years of life and joy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
LOELLA HASKEW

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Loella Haskew as she retires from the Walnut Creek City Council.

Loella was born in Staten Island, New York and moved to California shortly before her senior year of high school. She earned her Bachelor of Science in accounting from Golden Gate University, graduating summa cum laude, and later went on to earn her Master's in taxation. She then joined Golden Gate University as an adjunct instructor. Additionally, Loella served on the Statewide Committee of Taxation for the California Society of CPAS and was critical in drafting questions used for the CPA exam.

Loella is a devoted public servant and has shown her steadfast dedication to improving

the lives of CA-10 residents. She has served on City Council since 2012 and served as Mayor in 2016, 2020, and most recently in 2024. Throughout her career, Loella has been highly engaged with the community, serving on the Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund, the Diablo Regional Arts Association's board, the Walnut Creek Library Foundation board, Cancer Support Community board, and more. Loella has worked tirelessly to empower our community's youth. She volunteered as a soccer referee with the Pleasant Hill/Martinez Soccer Association, where she twice earned the title of "Referee of the Year." Loella has continually demonstrated her commitment to improving quality of life for Walnut Creek residents and making our community a better place for all.

Please join me in congratulating Loella Haskew on her well-deserved retirement after over a decade of outstanding public service.

HONORING ROBERT AND
CHRISTINA PASTERZ

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Christina M. Pasterz and her late husband, Dr. Robert B. Pasterz, for their dedication to our community.

I am blessed to call Chris my friend. I have known her and Bob for years and have seen for myself how they have helped the community through their work as healthcare providers, their dedication and stewardship in the Catholic community and prayer groups, their volunteer work to help Grand Canyon University students, and their active participation in Arizona school, local, state, and national political issues and campaigns.

Bob was a native of Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada. He was a Sea Cadet and was a Student Ambassador who met and had lunch with Queen Elizabeth when she visited Canada. He played hockey in Canada and was drafted for an NHL team, but opted for medical school instead. Bob immigrated to the United States to complete his medical studies, where he met Christina, who worked at Kino Emergency Room in Tucson, Arizona. Bob completed his training at MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, TX. He opened an Oncology practice in Sun City West, Arizona where he helped cancer patients until his retirement in 2011. Despite retirement, Bob was working up to the day before he passed away on November 18, 2021, from a massive heart attack. He was helping friends and family around the country survive the COVID-19 pandemic. He would always give his family and friends another set of eyes and ears when needed, to navigate a health care challenge or help any friends who could not afford a doctor visit or wanted to avoid the Emergency Room. One of Bob's greatest accomplishments was assisting his best friend, Father Bradley (Joseph Francis) LePage build the Grand Canyon University Newman Center from the ground up. Bob was happy to do whatever was needed to be done to help, including serving breakfast to students after Sunday Mass or traveling as a chaperone and physician on a mission trip to the Philippines.

Chris served as a Licensed Practical Nurse and to this day continues to give great

healthcare advice to others. Chris has been very involved in our schools and community and has opened up her house to prayer groups, school strategizing sessions, and political campaigns. She has been instrumental in helping maintain the values that have made our state and Nation great.

Christina and Bob were married in 1985 and moved to Glendale, Arizona, where they raised their two daughters, Ericka (married to Matt Stoner) and Vanessa (married to Todd Cunningham). Their grandchildren Ana, Gabe, Maddox and Mila who have all participated in a myriad of sports activities and their step-grandchildren Lauren and Madeline, kept both Bob and Chris busy and the kids and grandkids keep Chris busy even today.

I want to thank Chris and Bob Pasterz for their dedication to our community. Arizona is a much better place because of them.

TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY,
THE MOST REVEREND RYAN
PAGENTE JIMENEZ, D.D.

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His Excellency, the Most Reverend Ryan Pagente Jimenez, D.D., as the Second Bishop of Chalan Kanoa, Northern Mariana Islands.

Volumus Iesum Videre—"We would like to see Jesus" (John 12:21).

In a world marked by challenges and uncertainty, these words encapsulate a profound spiritual longing: the desire to see and encounter Christ. With this guiding principle, the Most Reverend Ryan Pagente Jimenez, as the second Bishop of Chalan Kanoa, undertook the mission to embody and share the presence, love, and light of Jesus with the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Born on December 18, 1971, in Dumaguete City, Philippines, to Rogelio and Lilia Jimenez, Ryan Pagente Jimenez grew up in Siquijor with his three siblings. His vocational journey began at Saint Joseph Seminary in Negros Oriental, where he first discerned his call to the priesthood. He later pursued a Bachelor's degree in Pre-Divinity at the Ateneo de Manila University, graduating in 1992 from San Jose Major Seminary. His post-graduate experience included work as a Jesuit Volunteer and as a high school teacher, roles that deepened his commitment to service. In 1995, his path led him to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, where he began a new chapter as a teacher at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota.

Answering the call to priesthood, Ryan was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by the late Bishop Tomas Aguon Camacho. He completed his theological studies at Saint Patrick's Seminary and University in California, earning a Bachelor's in Sacred Theology and a Master's degree in Divinity and Theology in 2003. He was ordained a priest on June 8, 2003, by Bishop Camacho at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Over the years, Father Ryan served in numerous capacities, including Parish Priest, Rector, Chancellor, and Superintendent of Catholic Schools, building a foundation for future leadership.

On November 28, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Father Ryan as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, following the resignation of Bishop Camacho and the unexpected passing of the then-Apostolic Administrator. In this role, Father Ryan provided spiritual leadership to over 43,000 Catholics in the CNMI. On June 24, 2016, Pope Francis appointed him as the second Bishop of Chalan Kanoa. His episcopal ordination on August 14, 2016, was presided over by Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai, S.D.B., with Bishops Julito Cortes and Tomas Camacho as co-consecrators.

Bishop Ryan's leadership was marked by the development of a 5-year pastoral plan, focusing on Evangelization and Faith Formation, Marriage and Family Life, Youth, Vocation, Liturgy, and Social Justice and Outreach. This plan emerged from extensive listening sessions and sought to guide the Diocese toward a shared mission of discipleship. His efforts emphasized unity, pastoral programs, youth ministry, and fostering dialogue within and beyond the Church community.

An advocate for education, Bishop Ryan championed Catholic education and faith formation programs, supporting initiatives like the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and the Commission on the Youth. He led a delegation of 40 from the Diocese to the World Youth Day celebrations in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2023, demonstrating his dedication to nurturing the faith of the young.

In 2024, Bishop Ryan was elected President of the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific (CEPAC) and Vice President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO). On July 6, 2024, Pope Francis appointed him as the Fourth Archbishop of Agaña in Guam.

Archbishop Ryan Jimenez has left an enduring legacy in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, characterized by humility, faith, and commitment to pastoral care. His leadership has shaped a vibrant, resilient, and united community inspired by the call to "see Jesus." His contributions continue to guide the faithful as they carry forward his mission. *Volumus Iesum Videre.* We would like to see Jesus.

NEW JERSEY SAT FEST, BEST
WISHES FOR TOURNAMENT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to AJ and Dorian Elmore and all the dedicated anglers of New Jersey SAT FEST for their unwavering support. This year, 13,000 of them will compete for the largest cash prize in New Jersey's history, and I wish each of them the very best of luck. The remarkable efforts of the event organizers have brought this incredible competition back for a third straight year, and this year, each one of them stands a chance to win the prize. When this event began three years ago, it not only gained national attention, but also inspired countless individuals when one winner, Miguel Rios, used his cash prize to send his daughter to college. This outstanding event has made a huge impact, generating 38 million video impressions across the country and

igniting a spirit of ambition and pursuit of dreams in Americans everywhere. As they prepare for the competition, I wish each of them good luck. Be safe, and take pride in being part of one of the premier fishing events on the East Coast. God bless New Jersey SAT FEST, and God bless our United States of America.

CONGRATULATING THE CHEYENNE
WELLS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cheyenne Wells Football team for winning the A6 State Championship with an undefeated record.

Their overwhelming victory over Stratton, who won the past two A6 state championships, is a testament to the teamwork and determination of each and every member of the team. I say thank you to all the players for setting an example that will serve as an inspiration for future generations of high school athletes. They should all be extremely proud of what they have accomplished and know that this is just a precursor for the many great achievements that each of them will have in their lifetimes.

I am honored to celebrate with the team and wish them all the best in their future seasons and beyond.

RECOGNIZING JULIAN A. PURDY

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the service of Julian A. Purdy, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) in the U.S. Department of Labor. The Deputy Assistant Secretary previously served on our Committee's staff, and has proven his dedication to America's veterans, servicemembers, and their families over his impressive career thus far.

Mr. Purdy's career began with his time as a Counterintelligence Agent and Human Intelligence Collector in the U.S. Army Reserves from 2004–2012. During this time, Mr. Purdy deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He balanced his obligations in the Reserves with service-oriented civilian careers, including working as an instructor for future military intelligence Soldiers.

Following his military service, Mr. Purdy began a career within the Federal Government, first with the House of Representatives. As a Legislative Assistant for Rep. Adam Smith (WA–9), he managed a diverse portfolio of policy issues, including veteran affairs, gun reform and criminal justice. While serving as a Professional Staff Member on the House VA Committee's Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, Mr. Purdy was responsible for policy related to veteran transition, education, employment and housing.

Since arriving at the DOL, Mr. Purdy has led numerous critical projects, including over-

seeing President Biden's White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Further, he spearheaded the DOL signing MOUs with HBCUs to ensure veterans attending HBCUs leverage the programs available through American Job Centers.

Additionally, Mr. Purdy led the Office of Strategic Outreach in aligning with the White House's Defense Industrial Base strategy by addressing critical labor shortages. This effort included supporting the Department of the Navy to strengthen national security through workforce solutions for building submarines and warships.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Purdy for his outstanding professional achievements and his dedicated service to our Nation and its Veterans.

HONORING RABBI IRVING "YITZ"
GREENBERG

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, a visionary scholar, teacher, author, and lecturer whose career spanning more than 65 years has profoundly influenced Jewish thought and practice while relating deeply to universal human values. His pioneering work, grounded in the core value of choosing life and improving society through goodness in every action, carries insights that resonate far beyond any single religion or tradition.

Rabbi Greenberg envisions a future shaped by a profound reverence for life in all its forms, inspiring us to build a more unified, compassionate, and humane world. Central to this vision is the traditional Jewish belief in *Tzelem Elokim*—the conviction that all humans are created in the image of God, underscoring the inherent dignity and worth of every person.

Rabbi Greenberg's contributions extend far beyond ideas and scholarship to the institutions he has created and shaped, institutions that continue to embody his vision, often challenging traditional norms to inspire growth and progress. As leader of the Soviet Jewry movement, rabbi of a Modern Orthodox synagogue in Riverdale, and co-founder of SAR academy, a day school in my district of the Bronx, Rabbi Greenberg has served the Jewish community in numerous capacities. He has been a professor and chair of the Jewish Studies Department at City College of New York, president of CLAL and the Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation, and executive director of the President's Commission on the Holocaust. His leadership extended to chairing the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. In fact, Rabbi Greenberg was among the first to teach college-level courses on the Holocaust in the mid-1960s.

As a Modern Orthodox philosopher, Rabbi Greenberg has addressed the profound challenges posed by the Holocaust, framing it as a transformative moment that altered the relationship between man and God, and shattered the Jewish world, one that had to rebuild itself and create a new, life-affirming reality. His narrative of Jewish life in a post-Holocaust

world emphasizes resilience, responsibility, and the power of moral action. He described this period as the “Third Great Era” in Jewish history—an era marked by Jewish self-determination. This era would be defined by Jews taking full responsibility for their own destiny, from the establishment of the State of Israel to the creation of new Diaspora institutions that would celebrate and sustain the full spectrum of Jewish religious and ethnic identity. Now, at 91, Rabbi Greenberg explores this core principle of *Tzelem Elokim* in “The Triumph of Life: A Narrative Theology of Judaism”, a profound magnum opus that encapsulates the breadth of his teachings. Greenberg’s vision emphasizes justice, compassion, and dignity, with the sanctity of life and the divine image inherent in every human being at its heart.

Throughout his career, Rabbi Greenberg has remained steadfast in his commitment to these values, in partnership with his wife, Blu, a trailblazing writer and founder of the Orthodox feminist movement. Together, Rabbi Yitz and Blu Greenberg’s progressive values have been central to the educational philosophy of SAR Academy, the school they founded in Riverdale, NY. Inspired by the Open Education movement, they envisioned a school with no walls, one that would foster creativity, independence, and collaboration through open spaces and a student-centered approach—a vision in this deep belief in the divine potential inherent in every individual. Today, more than fifty-six years later, SAR continues to embody Rabbi Greenberg’s vision, recognizing the divine spark in each and every individual child. The school challenges students to live Torah values while fostering creativity, empathy, and a commitment to building a better world.

Rabbi Greenberg has remained steadfast in his mission to advance Judaism as dynamic, inclusive, and responsive to the challenges of the modern world. He has consistently advocated for the inclusion of women and LGBTQ individuals in religious life, while also championing interfaith dialogue as essential to fostering compassion and understanding across communities.

In these dark and challenging times, Rabbi Greenberg’s message serves as a beacon of hope. His teachings remind us of the transformative power of goodness and respect for every individual in shaping a brighter future for all.

COMMEMORATING THE INVESTITURE OF DR. HARRISON KELLER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the investiture of Dr. Harrison Keller, Ph.D., as the 17th president of the University of North Texas.

Dr. Keller received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame and earned a master’s degree and Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University. He began his career as a legislative aide in the Texas House of Representatives and Senate before becoming Director of Research and Senior Education Advisor. Dr. Keller also taught courses at the University of Texas at Austin, Georgetown,

and St. Edward’s University. He later served as the Deputy to the President for Strategy and Policy at UT Austin as well as Vice Provost for Higher Education Policy and Research and Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. In this role, Dr. Keller developed several educational initiatives, including OnRamps, to provide high school students with the opportunity to earn college credit to UT Austin at low cost.

Prior to arriving at UNT, Dr. Keller served as Commissioner of Higher Education and chief executive officer of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Under his outstanding leadership, the Board advocated for policies and programs to help low-income and first-generation college students be successful. Moreover, Dr. Keller worked with state legislators to improve access to financial aid and workforce education. His tenure as commissioner allowed Texas to lead nationwide in higher education and university research. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Keller today for his dedication to student success and commitment to strengthening UNT’s status as a Tier One Research University.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation’s Capitol in recognition of this historic occasion. Congratulations to Dr. Keller, and I wish him the very best.

HONORING MINNESOTA HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN PETERSBURG

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Minnesota House Representative John Petersburg. First elected in 2012 to represent District 24A, Representative Petersburg has served the people of Minnesota honorably in the State House for the past twelve years.

John grew up on a farm and has exemplified a profound willingness to serve throughout his career. Many know him to be a dedicated father and husband, as well as a respected leader in his community.

The priorities of the people of Waseca and Steele counties have always been at the forefront of Representative Petersburg’s service in the Legislature, particularly through his continued leadership in the many House committees on which he has served throughout the years.

Representative Petersburg has done an exemplary job of leading on issues—most notably, his instrumental work on the completion of the historic U.S. Highway 14 corridor between New Ulm and Rochester.

All of us across southern Minnesota have been well-served by Representative Petersburg’s time in office, and I wish him the warmest congratulations on his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF OMER NEUTRA

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my sadness at the devastating news

that Long Island native Omer Neutra, 21, was among the 47 Americans slaughtered by Hamas during the brutal October 7th massacre. Growing up on Long Island, Omer was a cherished and active member of his community at the Schechter School of Long Island, Midway Jewish Center, and as a participant in Jewish youth summer programs. Those who knew Omer will miss his magnetic, fun-loving personality and joyful spirit. My heart is with Omer’s parents, Ronen and Orna, and his brother, Daniel, who have fought tirelessly to bring Omer home. May Omer’s memory be a blessing.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REO MOTOR CAR COMPANY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the 120th anniversary of the founding of the REO Motor Car Company, a pioneer in American automotive history founded by Ransom E. Olds. Established in 1904 in Lansing, Michigan, REO played a foundational role in shaping both the automotive industry and the city of Lansing. Throughout its years in operation, REO Motor Car Company stood as a symbol of innovation, producing vehicles that helped define an era in American transportation.

REO Motor Car Company had a profound effect on Lansing. By the 1920s, REO employed 10 percent of the city’s population, underscoring the company’s importance not only as a major employer but as a pillar of the community. The REO Clubhouse, built in 1917, served as a social center for employees and their families, hosting weddings, patriotic events during World War I and II, and even Lansing’s first radio station. Through its commitment to its workforce and the community, REO helped shape Lansing’s identity as a manufacturing hub.

Among REO Motor Car Company’s most celebrated vehicles were the REO Speed Wagon, the Flying Cloud, and the Royale. Introduced in 1915, the REO Speed Wagon set a new standard for trucks with its speed and durability, paving the way for the modern pickup truck. The Flying Cloud, launched in 1927, was known for its advanced hydraulic brakes, which set a new benchmark in automotive safety. The 1931 REO Royale featured a streamlined design that made it a true trendsetter in American car design.

Although REO ceased car production in 1936 to focus exclusively on truck manufacturing, the company remained a force in the industry. During World War II, REO Motor Car Company contributed to the war effort, supplying trucks to U.S. allies in a time of great need. REO continued to produce trucks until 1975, ending more than 70 years of innovation and service in the automotive industry.

Today, the legacy of REO Motor Car Company is preserved by the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum in Lansing. The museum stands as a tribute to both the company and its visionary founder, Ransom E. Olds, displaying a collection of rare and historic vehicles that allow visitors to appreciate the craftsmanship and ingenuity that defined REO.

Through these exhibits, the museum ensures that the company's contributions to the auto industry are remembered and celebrated.

As we recognize the 120th anniversary of the REO Motor Car Company's founding, let us acknowledge not only the vehicles it produced but also its impact on the city of Lansing and generations of residents. It is with great respect that I honor the REO Motor Car Company here in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING AND REMEMBERING
FELLOW MISSISSIPPIAN JAMES
"JIM" WILLIAM ELLIOTT, JR.

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember a Mississippian whose infectious personality and energetic spirit will always be remembered by those who knew him. James "Jim" William Elliott, Jr. from Brookhaven, Mississippi, lived the embodiment of the American Dream. He loved God, family, and cheering for his favorite sports teams: the Ole Miss Rebels, New Orleans Saints, and Atlanta Braves. Jim was generous with his time and found his greatest joy in connecting with others. No matter how busy life was, Jim was there to lend a listening ear and take time to enjoy family.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1931, Jim graduated from Central High School in 1949. After graduation, he attended the University of Mississippi where he excelled in academics and extracurricular activities. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order, president of the Cardinal Club, president of the School of Liberal Arts, and a Cadet Colonel of the Air R.O.T.C.

Jim served his country for two years in the United States Air Force as 1st Lieutenant and a legal officer. His time in the Air Force taught him the value of serving his country and what it means to uphold life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Jim attended law school at the University of Mississippi and obtained his LLB degree. His academic achievements earned him president of his senior class while in law school, and his job as assistant to the Business Manager of Athletics encouraged his love of sports.

As an outdoorsman, Jim took his love for sports to the field. From hunting and fishing to playing tennis, Jim enjoyed all sorts of sports. Of all the sports, Jim loved tennis best. He was known across Brookhaven for his willingness to teach young students how to play tennis. His children and grandchildren also received hands-on instruction from Jim on the sport. As a hunter, Jim received the Ducks Unlimited Award in 1987 for his contributions to waterfowl conservation.

The great outdoors gave Jim a deep love for the Lord and his creation. Jim was an active member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Brookhaven. While a member, he jumped at opportunities to serve and give back to the Lord. He served as a deacon, chairman of the deaconate, Sunday school teacher, president of the Men of the church, and served as an advisor to the Senior High Fellowship. The time he spent both outside and in service to

the church was with deep purpose and conviction.

Jim was a devoted family man who loved God above all. His legacy of service will live on throughout the communities that he impacted. He never shied away from meeting with people and setting an example of how to love others well. Jim was always generous with his time and presence to those who knew him. I know that he is missed by his family and community. I am honored for a chance to remember a lifelong Mississippian who loved his community and invested in those around him. I hope people across the Third District of Mississippi will see the value in serving the community around them as Jim did. I am thankful to serve a district that is home to people like James "Jim" William Elliott, Jr.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, ABIGAIL FUCHS FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Deputy Communications Director, Abigail Fuchs, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Abbey grew up in Minnesota's Third Congressional District in the suburbs of Minneapolis (Maple Grove and Edina, Minnesota). After graduating from Edina High School, she went on to attend the University of St. Thomas where she played on the Women's Soccer Team, ran track, and graduated with a degree in marketing. Abbey worked in campaign finance right out of college and then transitioned to my office in 2021 where she began as a Legislative Correspondent, was promoted to Constituent Communications Specialist, and finally held the title of Deputy Communications Director. Abbey is a team player at work and in her personal life, where she uses her athletic and leadership skills to inspire the next generation as a youth soccer coach.

Like my grandmother, the legendary advice columnist Dear Abby, I believe in the transformative power of listening. I often say that representation itself begins with listening, which is why I am so grateful that our own "Dear Abby" has lent her considerable talents to me—and our entire community—for the past three years. Abbey upholds the very foundation of our democracy by ensuring every Minnesotan who has an idea, question, or criticism to share is treated with compassion, receives a response, and is invited to continue a thoughtful dialogue with my office—no matter their politics.

Abbey embodies the spirit of radical hospitality, is quick to internalize and act upon strategy, and has capably forged a new path in congressional communications. Abbey creatively transformed our email and mass communications program into a branding superpower and is the only communications professional we know to have received unprovoked

thanks from constituents on the receiving end of mass emails—high praise in the age of digital spam. Her innovative approach to congressional communications has been identified by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House as best-in-class and helped propel me to a leadership position on the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee in 2022.

In addition to her outstanding work products, Abbey is a thoughtful and supportive teammate—always willing to lend a hand when needs arise. She is bright, energetic, and always looking outside the box to accomplish the goals of the office. Abbey brings optimism and a can-do attitude to whatever projects she is a part of.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish Abbey all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for almost four years of faithful service to this Nation in my office.

CONGRATULATING MICHELLE
BAKER

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, Colorado high school women's volleyball coach Michelle Baker was recently awarded the Horizon Award from the Colorado High School Athletics Association. This award is presented to Michelle for the significant improvements to Wiggins High School's volleyball program she has brought about over the past few years. Her dedication to her team and the women's volleyball program at Wiggins High is an inspiration to all.

Every student deserves the opportunity to compete in sports. Coaches like Michelle make that possible by coaching their players towards success on and off the court, teaching them skills like discipline, teamwork, and work ethic that will benefit them for years to come.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado, to congratulate Michelle for her hard work in achieving this award, and for improving Wiggins High School's women's volleyball team. Her dedication to the development of Colorado athletics cannot be understated, and I encourage Michelle to continue cultivating the best women's volleyball program at Wiggins High for the betterment of her players and the school at large.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVE
HUDSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Dave Hudson as he retires from the City of San Ramon.

Throughout his career, Dave has been dedicated to his community and to improving the lives of Bay Area residents. Dave began his career with the City of San Ramon on the

city's planning commission. He served on City Council for 23 years and was elected as Mayor of San Ramon in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. His leadership and dedication helped guide the city through this challenging time. During his time on City Council, Dave worked to protect the East Bay's open spaces, improve transportation throughout the region, and improve quality of life for all San Ramon residents. He was instrumental in the development of the CityWalk Master Plan, a mixed-use district in Bishop Ranch that would provide residents access to retail, dining, and recreational amenities. Dave's leadership has helped to increase access to affordable housing in the Tri-Valley and foster a vibrant community in San Ramon.

Dave has also been a strong advocate for all Bay Area residents, working to improve regional transportation efforts, ensure California continues to lead the way in curbing carbon emissions, and more. He served as Board Chair for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority in 2008 and 2016, was part of Tri-Valley Transportation Committee, and played a key role in the development of the Valley Link Rail and Caldecott Tunnel. Additionally, Dave has worked with a number of regional organizations including the League of California Cities, the Association of Bay Area Governments, East Bay Municipal Utility District, San Ramon Valley Unified School District, and more and served as Chair of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) in 2018. Dave has worked tirelessly throughout his career to bring community members together and to foster opportunity within the Bay Area.

Please join me in congratulating Dave Hudson on his well-deserved retirement after decades of public service.

HONORING TIM MASSA'S CAREER

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible achievement of Tim Massa, Chief People Officer and Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Labor Relations at The Kroger Co., and his induction as a Fellow into the National Academy of Human Resources (NAHR).

Since its creation in 1992, the NAHR has only recognized 195 individuals for their leadership, innovation, and service to the human resources profession. Tim's induction is a testament to his incredible leadership in and commitment to the profession.

Between his 21-year tenure with Procter and Gamble and his 14-year career at Kroger, Tim has demonstrated unparalleled leadership development and employee engagement throughout his career. As Chief People Officer at Kroger, Tim leads critical HR and labor relations functions, which have set the standard for the culture at Kroger and throughout the Country.

Not only has Tim committed more than thirty years to two stalwart Cincinnati companies, but his commitment to civic engagement, which includes serving on the boards of the Cincinnati Zoo, the City of Cincinnati Workforce Innovation Center, and the American Health Policy Institute, has benefited all Cin-

cinnatians and underscores his belief in the power of good leadership.

Tim Massa's induction into the NAHR is a recognition of his tireless and his ability to lead change. As Chairwoman of the NAHR Tracy Keogh said, "Members of the 2024 Class of Fellows have been acknowledged by their peers as reaching the highest level of achievement in the Human Resources profession." Tim Massa embodies this standard of excellence and has consistently demonstrated vision in driving transformative initiatives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tim Massa on this extraordinary achievement. His work has not only elevated Kroger and Cincinnati but has also made a lasting impact on the human resources field, exemplifying the very best of leadership, integrity, and service.

TRIBUTE TO WAREN SLOCUM

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a distinguished public servant who has dedicated his career to improving the lives of others. Warren Slocum is ending his twelve-year tenure on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and I'm proud to share his many accomplishments.

Born in 1948 in Michigan and raised by a single father, Warren grew up in San Diego, California. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army and served in Vietnam for one year, honorably discharged in 1969. This experience planted the seed that would yield fruit decades later in his pivotal work for veterans. He attended San Diego State University where he earned his B.S. Degree in History.

Prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors, Warren served as the Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County for 24 years. His decades of service were marked by innovation and a focus on continuous improvement. He was driven to provide better service, improve access, and embraced technology as a tool for positive change. As County Clerk, he was the first in the nation to offer couples the opportunity to broadcast their wedding ceremonies on the internet so that families and friends all over the world could share these special moments. As Recorder, he oversaw the conversion of recorded paper documents to recorded electronic documents and the creation of a publicly searchable database which made it easy to research property information. As the Chief Elections Officer, he introduced accessible voting equipment with language and adaptive features to ensure that all voters could participate in fair, private, and secure elections.

Warren was elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 2012, and subsequently re-elected in 2016 and 2020, and is concluding his tenure as Board President in 2024. The 4th Supervisorial District he represents includes the cities of Redwood City, East Palo Alto, portions of Menlo Park east of El Camino Real, and the unincorporated community of North Fair Oaks. His Supervisorial District includes some of the

most culturally diverse areas in San Mateo County. He always focused on strengthening families, advancing educational achievement, and fostering community connections.

Understanding the challenges his constituents experience, Warren approached his work through the lenses of equity and social progress. Vast disparities exist in San Mateo County, and he knows that systemic inequality diminishes us all. His desire to be of greater service and help our community move forward drove his commitment to making San Mateo County stronger and more vibrant. To achieve these results, Warren worked collaboratively—with people from every quarter of our community, including faith-based organizations, businesses, youth, renters, homeowners, schools, nonprofits and many others—building more affordable housing, moving the needle on reducing homelessness, particularly for families and veterans, and reducing traffic congestion.

As part of his responsibilities, Warren has represented San Mateo County on Regional Boards and Commissions including the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, where he advocated for and protected San Mateo County's interests. In addition, he serves on the San Mateo County City/County Association of Governments, the Emergency Services Council, the Local Agency Formation Commission, the San Mateo County Libraries Joint Powers Authority Governing Board, the Sheriff's Oversight and Engagement Subcommittee, and the South Bayside Waste Management Authority. He serves as the liaison to the San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities, the North Fair Oaks Community Council, and Redwood City Together.

Along the way, I had the privilege of working closely with Warren as we explored our shared interest at the intersection of government and technology through our annual Connect conferences. For close to a decade, we explored how emerging technologies could be embraced by government to provide better service to our communities. Our focus on social media, artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, and the digital divide, among others, proved prescient as these continue to pose significant policy considerations for all levels of government.

With lack of affordable housing a pressing community concern, Warren has prioritized seeking solutions. This includes serving on the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust Board and the Housing Our People Effectively Interagency Council. He led early efforts to address the jobs-housing imbalance which transitioned to Home for All, a collaboration of the County of San Mateo, cities, school districts, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, and businesses. During his tenure on the Home for All Steering Committee, the jobs-housing gap was reduced through a model that allows communities to move forward with solutions uniquely tailored to their needs. Warren has prioritized increasing affordable housing designated for low-income residents, particularly seniors, veterans, and families, with projects completed and underway.

As a proud U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam, Warren knows the importance of recognizing the work and sacrifice of our veterans and their advocates. Warren is known as the "Godfather" of the San Mateo County Veterans Commission. He advocated for its

creation in 2015 on behalf of San Mateo County's 27,000 veterans and their family members. Coinciding with Veterans Day, Warren and the Commission initiated the annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon to honor individuals and organizations for their work in supporting veterans. Warren is immensely proud of the Commission's work, partnering with the County's Veteran Service Office, to improve the lives of veterans in our community. Due to his ongoing efforts and dedication, the San Mateo County Veterans Commission presented Warren with the Lifetime Achievement Award at its 2024 luncheon.

His wife, Maria Diaz-Slocum, and their two sons and families have supported and embraced Warren's passion for family, public service, technology, and history. They have made their home in Redwood City for more than 30 years, their sons were educated in the public school system, and his wife served as an elected Trustee of the Redwood City School District. Their shared love for our community has provided Warren a bedrock from which to move forward with a bold vision on how to make things better for others.

Warren's priority from day one was always to improve the lives of the residents of District 4 and San Mateo County with a particular focus on the most vulnerable. He is a respected and admired regional leader with a proven record on social equity, affordable housing, transportation, and economic empowerment for all residents in our community. The effectiveness of a leader can be judged by their lasting impact. By that measure, Warren has excelled as he leaves San Mateo County in a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Warren Slocum for an exemplary record of service to the County of San Mateo, commending him for his tireless dedication of time and talent, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MY STAFF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor eight members of my staff—Patrick Boland, Mary Hovagimian, Tim Hysom, Qiao Li, Colleen Oinuma, Ann Peifer, Margarita Piñon-Gutierrez, and Teresa Lamb Simpson—who have each spent more than a decade serving the House of Representatives and constituents in the great state of California.

PATRICK BOLAND

Patrick Boland, my current Chief of Staff, is a proud son of California's 30th Congressional District, growing up in Pasadena and attending Loyola High School. After graduating from Colby College, Patrick worked in communications roles on Capitol Hill for Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator CHARLES SCHUMER, Rep. Scott Murphy (D-NY) and Rep. ANNA ESHOO (D-CA). He also worked on the campaigns of Rep. RAUL RUIZ (D-CA) and Rep. MARK TAKANO (D-CA).

Patrick joined my team in 2012, serving as Communications Director and a senior advisor for both my personal office and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. In his role as a spokesman and speechwriter,

and director of the war room, during the first impeachment inquiry, Patrick's intellect, pragmatism, and dedication were crucial to the impeachment team's presentation of our case to the House, the Senate, and the American people.

Since 2021, Patrick has served as my Chief of Staff, playing an integral role in my transition back to the Judiciary Committee. Through his leadership, Patrick has fostered a collaborative, inclusive, and results-oriented culture in my personal office. Additionally, he has mentored countless junior staffers and brought them under his wing as they begin their careers on Capitol Hill, always advocating for those he believes deserve a spot on Capitol Hill and a chance to work in public service.

Patrick also worked as a Senior Advisor for my Senate campaign, helping oversee our political, communications, policy and paid media operations. His contributions and strategic vision on the trail were crucial to both our successful statewide campaign and to our support of numerous California incumbents and challengers who prevailed this November.

Patrick is married to Jill, a Senior Policy Advisor to Sen. JACK REED (D-RI), with whom he has a one-year-old daughter Riley.

Patrick is truly gifted at his job, holding an intimate understanding of the media as an enterprise and a business rivaling that of any other professional on Capitol Hill. He brings leadership, levity, and political acumen to my office every single day, and I am looking forward to seeing all that we will accomplish together as we continue our service to the state of California.

MARY HOVAGIMIAN

Born in Burbank, California, Mary Hovagimian attended St. Mary's Richard Tufenkian Preschool & Kindergarten and Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School. She continued her education at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, graduating Cum Laude in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in communication.

Mary was determined to delve into a career where she could give back to the community and make a meaningful difference in people's lives. When a career counselor at the University of Southern California shared with Mary that my office was seeking a District Representative, she did not hesitate to apply. In this capacity, Mary has devotedly served the constituents of my district, helped organize community outreach events, served as a liaison between constituents and my office, and directed Armenian American outreach. Mary has been recognized for her work in the community and received the 2014 Woman in Government Award from the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce.

I have proudly represented one of the largest Armenian American communities in the United States, and Mary's Armenian-speaking skills in both Eastern and Western Armenian, a skill she credits to her family and education, have proven essential throughout the years. She has helped many constituents who have needed translation assistance. In 2013, Mary also helped me speak this beautiful language when I decided to deliver my remarks in commemoration of the 98th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Armenian on the House Floor. And no matter the issue facing the community, Mary navigates it with tact and skill unparalleled.

Mary leads the effort on the annual Women of the Year nominations, which recognizes remarkable women from California's 30th Congressional District. Each year, she works tirelessly to acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities through civic engagement, community service, and leadership in their respective fields.

During her time with my office, I have had the opportunity to see Mary excel balancing her responsibilities in my office while working toward her master's degree in leadership, which she obtained in 2021 from the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy. She brought what she learned inside the classroom back to my office to champion the needs of the community. Mary is deeply committed to her family and community, one of the many reasons that she has excelled at public service.

I'm excited that she will continue to make a significant contribution to our team's success in the U.S. Senate. Her deep understanding of the Armenian community and her unwavering commitment to constituents will undoubtedly be an invaluable asset to the team.

TIM HYSOM

Tim Hysom has spent over twenty years on Capitol Hill, serving a number of members in a variety of roles. A graduate of Dominican University, Tim began his Congressional career in the district office of Rep. David E. Skaggs (D-CO). After some time in the private sector, he joined my D.C. team as a Legislative Assistant in 2003. In this role, Tim advised me on my work on the Judiciary Committee. He also played an integral role in bringing my office into the 21st Century, completely overhauling my office's online presence and building and managing our constituent database. He also developed my office's strategic communications through emerging mediums, such as online town hall meetings, tele-town halls, and video conferencing.

After five years with the Congressional Management Foundation, where he advised Members on how to effectively correspond with constituents, Tim rejoined my team as our Deputy District Director. As the boundaries of my district shifted, he created a strategic plan for community outreach for different communities and geographic areas to reach our new constituents. He also advised me on key transportation, entertainment industry, and political issues in our district.

After two years in this role, Tim moved back to Washington, D.C., to serve as Chief of Staff to Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) from 2013 to 2021. Building a congressional office from scratch is no easy feat, but Tim made it seem easy—leading to a successful House career for Rep. Lowenthal. After stints as Chief of Staff with Rep. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS (D-MA) and as a House Shared Financial and Human Resource Administrator, Tim joined my team for a third time, as a senior advisor assisting me and my team in the conclusion of my tenure in the House and launching my Senate office.

Throughout his career, Tim has proven his versatility as a leader in policymaking, project and human resource management, and constituent service skills. He has also mentored many junior staffers finding their way on Capitol Hill. His contributions to this institution have been immense, and I am excited knowing that I will continue to have his guidance and wisdom on my Senate team.

QIAO LI

Qiao Li, a graduate of UC Berkeley, first entered public service while working for Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge, a public servant of the highest order who guided the paths of so many in our community, including Qiao. She began with my office in 2011 as a District Representative. In 2013, Qiao took a brief detour to pursue a Master's degree in Global and International Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

In 2019, she rejoined our team, applying her knowledge to casework to better serve the community. In her role as a casework manager, she is the first point of contact for constituents who need assistance with federal agencies. It is not always an easy job, but Qiao's smile and dedication to helping individuals never wavers. Not a week goes by when I do not receive thanks for a constituent she has assisted in their casework with the IRS, VA, State Department, BCIS, or other federal agencies.

Qiao addresses a wide range of issues and serves as the bridge between constituents and the federal government, helping them to navigate complex processes to ensure they receive the services and benefits they are entitled to.

Outside of her role in the office, she is an active member of the community. For six summers, she coordinated the YUNASA Summer Camp for Gifted Kids. During her 11 years in public service, Qiao has been an invaluable part of the team, and I am so grateful that she will continue to leverage her expertise in all areas of casework to make a significant impact for people across the state of California in the United States Senate. Her kind spirit and unwavering commitment to public service will undoubtedly benefit our team and the state as a whole.

COLLEEN OINUMA

Colleen Oinuma is a graduate of UC Berkeley, where she earned her B.S. in Environmental Science and actively participated in student government. Before taking her current role, she worked for a research unit studying MRI spectroscopy to help diagnose neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's, addiction and traumatic brain injury.

Colleen joined my district team in 2011 and has covered a variety of issue areas, including the Environment, Energy, Rim of the Valley, and Space. Because of her work on the Rim of the Valley, we have been able to make progress in securing and protecting nearly a hundred thousand acres in the Southern California region for future generations. Colleen also manages all aspects of my schedule for California and played a crucial role in our successful statewide campaign for Senate, serving as director of scheduling and advance. Her strategic vision and critical thinking made the gears of a large campaign run, and we could not have done it without her.

Outside of the office, she served on the board of OCA-Greater Los Angeles, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Colleen has also served as the Co-Director of the Asian Pacific American Legislative Staff Network. In this role, she took great pride in mentoring Asian American and Pacific Islander staff members. Because of her mentorship, countless individuals have entered and stayed in public serv-

ice, leaving a lasting impact that will be felt for years to come.

Colleen is married to David, and is a mom of three, Madeline, Hannah and Quinten along with her dog Austin.

I am looking forward to her joining my United States Senate office, where she will serve as Deputy State Director. Her leadership and strategic vision will ensure I am able to serve all Californians.

ANN PEIFER

Ann Peifer began her career in public service as an intern for an Orange County State Senator while obtaining her B.A. in Social Ecology from UC Irvine in 1981. After serving in that office over ten years as a caseworker, field representative and ultimately district manager, she subsequently moved to the State Board of Equalization, State Assembly, and the City of Long Beach before re-joining the State Senate as my District Coordinator in 1997.

Ann was the first person I hired when I was elected to public office. We met at an IHOP in Burbank and discussed how to establish my first district office and build out our staff. Her ambition, political acuity, and wealth of knowledge as a lifelong Californian and public servant prompted me to make Ann my District Director. After four years in my State Senate office, Ann moved with me to the House of Representatives, where she has served as my District Director ever since.

As the longest-serving member of my staff, I owe Ann a debt of gratitude for building my constituent service operation and providing direction to our constituent services that is rooted in an authentic desire to help others and a dedication to public service that is unmatched.

Under Ann's leadership, our staff has brought compassion, diligence, empathy, and a high level of professionalism to our constituents through casework and community engagement. Ann cares deeply for her staff and the nearly 750,000 constituents of California's 30th District. Her dedication to public service is underscored by the sheer volume of cases my staff has undertaken: Under Ann's leadership throughout my time in the CA State Legislature and House of Representatives, my office has resolved 36,000 cases for our constituents.

Ann has been with me every step of the way—from the 21st State Senate District, to the 27th, 29th, 28th and now 30th Congressional District. I am grateful for her continuing service as my State Director in the United States Senate.

MARGARITA PIÑON-GUTIERREZ

Margarita Piñon-Gutierrez was born in Harbor City, California, and was raised in San Pedro. She attended Mary Star of the Sea High School in San Pedro and Los Angeles Harbor College in Wilmington. Prior to joining my office, she worked for UnidosUS, formerly known as the National Council of La Raza, the largest Latino nonprofit advocacy organization in the country, before moving into a life of public service to work for Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy, Rep. Esteban E. Torres (D-CA), and Rep. Hilda L. Solis (D-CA). Margarita also served as Administrative Assistant to several deans at San Pedro High School.

Margarita has been a Caseworker on my team since 2007. I first met Margarita when I attended an event at Steven's Steak House and Seafood in Commerce, California, and I was deeply impressed with her dedication to

the needs of Californians. Throughout her time with my office, she has handled casework involving the Social Security Administration, U.S. Department of State, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service.

Margarita has provided translation services in Spanish to the constituents of my district and has served as a liaison to the community, attending numerous events of various organizations including the Glendale Latino Association and Adelante Latinos. Her warmth and dedication shines through every interaction she has with constituents, who are often navigating life-changing events.

Margarita resides with her husband, Dennis, her brother, Luis Piñon, Jr., and her beloved dogs, Riley, Belle, Samantha and Lulu.

Her passion for ensuring constituents have access to the services and resources they need drives her day-to-day work. I am grateful for her incredible expertise in navigating casework with a large range of federal agencies, and I look forward to seeing this commitment to service deployed in the United States Senate for the entire state of California.

TERESA LAMB SIMPSON

Teresa Lamb Simpson is a part of a third generation born and raised in Pasadena, California. She took an interest in politics at an early age, as her grandfather served on the local school board and her mother was a volunteer who often took Teresa and her siblings to work on political campaigns. Teresa has worked in a variety of fields, including nonprofits, law firms, restaurants, and retail management. Fighting the widespread aerial spraying of the insecticide malathion in Southern California in the late 1980s launched her into a career in politics.

Teresa and I met during my earlier State Assembly campaign and crossed paths again in 1996 when she came on board to work as the Volunteer Coordinator for my successful State Senate campaign. After the election, she joined my staff as a District Representative in 1997 and continued on to work on my House staff in 2001. Teresa has a true passion for helping people, serving as an exemplary community liaison between my constituents and me. She covered the geographic areas of Atwater Village, Echo Park, Elysian Valley, Los Feliz, Pasadena, Shadow Hills, Silver Lake, Sunland and Tujunga. In addition to her work as a liaison and invaluable relationship-builder, she organized my Congressional Art Competition for high school students for many years, trained and helped manage our office interns, coordinated several community outreach events and provided guidance to my constituents on various issues.

Outside of her role in my office, Teresa is a pillar of the community. She was the co-coordinator of the Children's Village at the Arroyo Seco Earth Day Festival and served on the board of the United Nations Association, Pasadena Chapter, the executive boards of the Pasadena Police Activities League and the Pasadena Police Foundation, on the City of Pasadena's Commission on the Status of Women and on the City's Library Commission. She also volunteered with the Junior League

of Pasadena, Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley, and the YWCA Glendale and Pasadena. Currently, she is a co-founder and board member of the San Rafael Library Associates and active in local political organizations. For her community involvement, Teresa has been the recipient of the Rosemary Children's Services Golden Star Award, the Pasadena Police Chiefs Special Award for Excellence, the Democrat of the Year Award and THE Magazine's 50 Fabulous Women Over 50 Award.

Married in 2002, Teresa and her husband, James Simpson, live in their hometown of Pasadena, California.

Teresa will be joining me in the United States Senate, and I am grateful that she will continue her outstanding public service to my constituents throughout the State of California.

In my twenty-three years in Congress, I have learned the important lesson that every member is only as good as their staff, and seldom as good as that. We could not do our jobs for our constituents without them and their labors, and my staff have been laser-focused on providing the highest level of service for the great people of Southern California. They have also fostered a phenomenal culture in both the district and D.C., one which has attracted and retained so many other brilliant and dedicated public servants through the years. These eight—who have each served more than ten years in the U.S. House—are some of the most dedicated, selfless, and talented individuals I have ever met, and I have been truly blessed to have them alongside me in serving our constituents in Burbank, Glendale, Hollywood, Pasadena and beyond.

I also want to thank my other staff who will be coming with me to the U.S. Senate for their dedication, their public service, and their amazing intellect. I am so thankful that Danielle Fulfs, Marisol Samayoa, Kaitlyn Kelly, Jamie Thompson, Kyle Abrams, Dahvi Cohen, Manning Turkheimer, Colin Kruse, Mohamad Almouazen, Maddie Barry, Christina Beros, and Jackson Boaz will also be joining me in the U.S. Senate.

I owe each of these dedicated staffers my utmost gratitude, and I am looking forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the next chapter of our service to the people of California.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT LISA BLOOMER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Lisa Bloomer of Frisco, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Lisa has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Lisa was born in Abilene, Texas, and grew up in Plano. She attended Plano Senior High School and graduated from the University of North Texas in 1991 with a bachelor's degree and master's degree in tax accounting. In the following year, Lisa became a Certified Public Accountant and went on to work as an accountant for various businesses and healthcare firms for over three decades. She

also launched her very own accounting practice in 1999 along with her father, which she still operates today.

In addition to providing dependable tax services, Lisa has been involved in many community service initiatives across North Texas. From 2019 to 2023, she served as the President of the Plano East Rotary Club, where she oversaw the development of the Plano Flags of Honor program. This program recognizes veterans and first responders each year for their selfless service and sacrifices to our community. Moreover, Lisa led the charge to preserve the City of Plano's annual 4th of July and Christmas parades. Upon hearing they would be discontinued, she highlighted the importance and value that these signature events brought to families and children. As a result, Lisa was able to successfully advocate for their restoration. I am proud to recognize Lisa today for her outstanding work in supporting our community members and ensuring our veterans and first responders received the recognition they deserve. I know she will continue to make a positive impact in our community for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Lisa with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas and I thank her for all she has done.

RECOGNIZING JAMES D. RODRIGUEZ

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the service of James D. Rodriguez, the U.S. Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). The Assistant Secretary has been a critical resource for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and we all owe him our gratitude for his life of public service.

Mr. Rodriguez enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1988. Over the course of his 21-year career in the USMC, Mr. Rodriguez deployed several times, including as part of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mr. Rodriguez's post-military career has centered around supporting our Nation's Veterans. After separating from the USMC, he entered the private sector, spearheading Government Relations initiatives with companies like BAE systems and Deloitte. While at BAE, Mr. Rodriguez served as a liaison for the White House Joining Forces initiative while developing a program to hire Veteran employees. The program ultimately led to the hiring of more than 1,500 Veterans.

In 2014, Mr. Rodriguez transitioned to a new role at the Department of Defense, serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Office of Warrior Care Policy. Here, he developed a strategic roadmap to align business processes and procedures for WCP while working alongside international partners to enhance warrior care.

In his current role with DOL, Mr. Rodriguez is responsible for preparing America's veterans, service members and their spouses for meaningful careers. During his tenure with DOL, he expanded DOL VETS' Vision state-

ment to be inclusive of our reserve & Guard components and Military Spouses while aligning with the White House's Defense Industrial Base strategy to address critical labor shortages. He further served as the Department's Designee for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and co-chaired for the White House's taskforce on suicide prevention.

For his efforts supporting Veterans and labor initiatives, Mr. Rodriguez recently received the University of Maryland's Global Campus' 2024 Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest alumni award granted at UMGC.

Beyond his professional accolades, Mr. Rodriguez is a proud father to two daughters, Courtney and Casey Rodriguez, and a husband to Vanessa Rodriguez—who is also a Marine Veteran.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Rodriguez for his outstanding professional achievements and his dedicated service to our Nation and its Veterans.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTIN SUTTER

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, Colorado high school women's volleyball coach Christin Sutter was recently awarded Coach of the Year from the Colorado High School Athletics Association. This award is presented to Christin for the significant improvements to Merino High School's volleyball program she has brought about over the past few years. Her dedication to her team and the women's volleyball program at Wiggins High and CHSAA is an inspiration to all.

Every student deserves the opportunity to compete in sports. Coaches like Christin make that possible by coaching their players towards success on and off the court, teaching them skills like discipline, teamwork, and work ethic that will benefit them for years to come.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado, to congratulate Christin for her hard work in achieving this award, and for improving Merino High School's women's volleyball team. Her dedication to the development of Colorado athletics cannot be understated, and I encourage Christin to continue cultivating the best women's volleyball program at Merino High for the betterment of her players and women's volleyball throughout Colorado.

HONORING PAUL AND EILEEN MUELLER

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Paul and Eileen Mueller for their years of service to our Nation, state, and community.

I have known Paul and Eileen Mueller for years. They are great, loving people that work hard to preserve the principles that have made our Nation great.

Paul and Eileen have been married for 39 years. They have two sons, a daughter, and a granddaughter. Paul was born and raised in Missouri and is an alumnus of the University of Utah. Eileen is a fourth generation Arizonan. Her ancestors came to Arizona in the late 1870s. Eileen is a descendant of immigrants that came to America on the Mayflower.

Eileen worked tirelessly as the Republican Chairwoman of my Arizona State Legislative District for four years and as the treasurer for one and a half years. Eileen has also served as an Arizona Republican Party Precinct Committeeman for 11 years and as an Arizona Republican Party State Committeeman for 10 years.

Paul has been an active Republican Party Precinct Committeeman and State Committeeman for 10 years.

I appreciate everything that Paul and Eileen have done for our Nation, state, and community throughout the years.

May God continue to Bless them and our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PINE

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize David Pine, member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, upon the conclusion of his tenure in service to our community.

Born in Massachusetts in 1958, and raised in New Hampshire, Dave is a graduate of Dartmouth College, where he was awarded a Harry S. Truman scholarship. He was elected, at age 19, to the New Hampshire State House of Representatives, one of the youngest ever elected. Following his undergraduate studies Dave earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School.

Before focusing his career on public service, Dave worked as an attorney representing start-up and high-growth technology companies. After working in private practice with Fenwick & West, he served as Vice President and General Counsel for Radius, Excite@Home, and Handspring.

Dave served on the Redwood City Planning Commission and was an elected school board member for the Burlingame School District from 2003 to 2007 and the San Mateo Union High School District from 2007 to 2011. He is also a past president of the San Mateo County School Boards Association.

Dave was first elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in a special election in May 2011, and subsequently reelected in 2012, 2016 and 2020. He served as Board President in 2014, 2018 and 2023. He has ably and with distinction represented District 1 which includes the cities of Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, and portions of San Bruno and South San Francisco; the unincorporated communities of San Mateo Highlands, Baywood Park and Burlingame Hills; and San Francisco International Airport.

During his nearly 14 years on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Dave has been on the forefront, crafting policies that reflect the diverse values of our community. He championed the creation of the San Mateo

County LGBTQ Commission—now called LGBTQIA+ Commission—the first of its kind in the state and has served as Board liaison to the Commission since its inception, including providing staff support to the Director and commissioners. He also championed annual San Mateo County recognitions of Pride Month and Transgender Day of Remembrance and led the effort to establish the San Mateo County Pride Center, which provides high quality, LGBTQ+ affirming mental health services, including counseling, therapy and collaborative treatment planning.

Dave led on gun safety, spearheading the County's Gun Violence Prevention Program and introducing a Safe Firearm Storage ordinance and a Firearm Dealer ordinance, and led efforts to garner County support of resident-led San Mateo County gun buyback events. He has been a strong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities, expanding access to prevention programs and health and mental health access, and combating poverty and homelessness. He has been an advocate for public transit and served on the San Mateo County Transit District and Caltrain boards of directors. He worked to support Measure W, a 2018 half-cent sales tax for countywide transit improvement projects, which passed with 66.9 percent support.

With Dave's appointment as Co-Chair of the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council in 2011, he began a dedicated approach to addressing the needs of children and their families by identifying local priorities for childcare and early learning services and developing policies and strategies for implementation. He is a founding member and Co-Chair of Build Up San Mateo County, established in 2017, which serves as a hub for multi-sector collaborations on advocacy, policy, technical assistance, financing, and development support to encourage the creation of child care facilities for employees, track local real estate projects for child care opportunities, identify resources to build new child care and preschool facilities, and generate funding to renovate existing facilities. Dave has consistently advocated for additional funding to support programs and policies such as the Community Equity Collaborative for the Teacher Pipeline Project to offer tuition-free Early Childhood Education classes.

Concerned for our natural environment, and protecting our communities from the impacts of climate change, Dave has worked extensively on the intersecting issues of flood control, sea level rise, and tidal land restoration. As Chair of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and member of the Governing Board since 2013, he helped pass a nine-county Bay Area parcel tax, Measure AA, in 2016 that funds shoreline projects that protect and restore the Bay. He is the founding Chair of the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District, known as OneShoreline, the first county-level agency in the state to directly focus on flood control and sea level rise. The District was created following two Sea Level Rise/Water conferences he led in 2013 and 2018, during which he and other San Mateo County leaders recognized the need for a coordinated response. I was pleased to work with Dave by authoring the legislation in the California State Assembly to create OneShoreline, a model for the rest of California and the nation on a regional approach to climate change adaptation.

As a member of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Dave provided sound guidance on regional sea level rise planning for new shoreline projects, and was instrumental in helping the organization embrace much needed reforms and facilitating the resolution of longstanding complex regulatory entanglements. He provided his expertise as a board member and former chair of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority which completed a significant flood and sea level rise mitigation project and has ambitious plans to protect an eleven mile stretch of the Bay shoreline.

Dave championed the creation of San Mateo County's Office of Sustainability (OOS), now the Sustainability Department, and supported initiatives such as the County policy that requires all County buildings to identify the risk from sea level rise, electrification of the County's vehicle fleet, a 2017 resolution in support of the commitment to the Paris Agreement as a show of the County's ongoing promise to cut greenhouse gas emissions, development of the County's Climate Action Plan, and exploration of reach code policies.

Among his most significant environmental accomplishment is the creation of Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), which provides San Mateo County residents and businesses with cleaner energy at lower rates. He led the County effort to create the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) structure starting in 2015. Through his leadership, and with the support of the then-County Office of Sustainability, all 20 cities in the county collaborated to form PCE in less than one year.

With a steadfast commitment to public service, and a calm, analytical approach, Dave has been an outstanding steward for San Mateo County. He can be relied upon to approach matters with a solution-driven mindset. Dave is a respected and admired regional leader whose contributions to protecting our environment and preparing our community for the impacts of climate change will have a lasting impact. His thoughtful approach and building bridges serve as model for others to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Dave Pine for an exemplary record of service to the County of San Mateo, commending him for his tireless dedication of time and talent, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LARA DELANEY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Lara DeLaney as she retires from her role as Contra Costa County Senior Deputy County Administrator.

Lara was born in Southern California and raised in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She attended school in Jeddah where she excelled in athletics, serving as captain of the volleyball and swim teams and being the second-ranked women's tennis player in Jeddah. She then returned to the United States, studying literature at U.C. Santa Cruz and going on to earn her Master's in Regulatory and Aggregate Policy

from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Lara then joined the San Joaquin Council of Governments as a Senior Regional Planner, focusing on transportation and land use policy.

Throughout her career, Lara has demonstrated her steadfast dedication to improving the lives of Contra Costa residents. Lara moved to Martinez, California in 1998 and began her role as Senior Management Analyst for the Contra Costa County Administrator's Office where she has diligently served our community for the last 26 years. In this role, Lara has worked with a number of county agencies, providing legislative analysis and interacting with state and federal lobbyists. Furthermore, she was instrumental in establishing the County's Office of Reentry & Justice, which works to reduce recidivism rates, provide support to formerly incarcerated individuals, and promote equity. She also played a key role in the development of the County's Arts & Culture Master Plan. Additionally, Lara served on the Martinez City Council for over twenty years. She has been highly engaged with the Martinez Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Boys and Girl Club, and spearheaded the Joe DiMaggio Hometown Hero Project.

Please join me in congratulating Lara Delaney on her well-deserved retirement after decades of outstanding public service.

EUGENE CARROCCIA

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to honor Dr. Eugene Carroccia, a Quilt of Valor recipient and Vietnam War veteran, for his exceptional service as a Battalion Surgeon in the late '60s. Eugene had just completed medical school at the New Jersey College of Medicine and was about to begin his residency when the United States Army called him to serve his country. He was assigned to the Ninth Infantry Division, where he became the sole physician, with the responsibility for the medical well-being of all the soldiers entirely on his shoulders. Dr. Eugene participated in the Medical Civic Action Program, during which he and his medics provided medical care to local Vietnamese citizens, including children at Saigon orphanages, ensuring they received the best care possible. After his time in Vietnam, he was stationed at Fort Ord in California, where he was first introduced to plastic surgery by performing reconstructive surgery for service members. Following his service in the Army, he attended St. Louis University, where he completed his surgical residency and then a fellowship in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Medical College of Ohio. Eugene returned to South Jersey, where he dedicated over 40 years to medical treatment and surgery until his retirement in 2020. I thank Eugene for the outstanding care he provided to his fellow soldiers and to the residents of Southern Jersey. God bless Dr. Eugene, and God bless our United States of America.

NEWSLETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on support for Western North Carolina in recovering from Hurricane Helene and reforms to the U.S. tax code.

DEAR FRIEND,

Hurricane Helene devastated WNC, with 81 lives lost in North Carolina's 11th District.

In some areas, water crested up to 30 feet above normal levels, though locals report crests as high as 40 feet, destroying entire communities as it rushed through our mountain valleys, carrying away homes, cars and roads.

During a House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing, I shared insight into the aftermath of Helene, including how FEMA's response was in some ways effective and how, in other ways, there were significant issues that need to be addressed.

For example, on Day Three after the storm, FEMA announced it had delivered 400 pallets of desperately needed water to Western North Carolina, but when asked where those supplies had been delivered, FEMA could not provide a single location.

As members of Congress, it is our job to conduct rigorous oversight and hold FEMA accountable for its disaster recovery processes.

The U.S. House must address the flaws in FEMA's response to prevent further delays and confusion in the recovery process for Western North Carolinians, and for survivors of any future disaster.

Rest assured, it is my top priority to continue to help WNC recover and receive the assistance our communities need.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman views hurricane damage in WNC.

Over the past few weeks, I've invited several legislators to visit our district to see the damage firsthand. I'll need each of them to fully understand the breadth of what is needed for us to rebuild as I advocate for the necessary funding. This has been helpful in gathering support for supplemental disaster assistance to help our road to recovery.

Most recently, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole accepted my invitation and visited Western North Carolina to personally see the impact of Hurricane Helene in our mountains.

Swannanoa and Marshall are just two of our small towns with tremendous needs, and Chairman Cole's visit was another important step toward securing funds that will help our communities rebuild.

Holding the National Institute of Health accountable.

Making commonsense reforms to U.S. tax code.

This week, the U.S. House passed a commonsense bill to fix our tax code with my support.

The Stop Terror Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act would prevent the IRS from charging late fees to American citizens who are wrongfully detained abroad.

Americans who are wrongfully detained or held hostage are currently provided only one year of tax relief. While these individuals should be focusing on getting their lives back, instead they are being charged late fees by the federal government. This is a

timely issue, with Americans still being held hostage by Hamas. The last thing these Americans and their families should have to worry about is settling an unpaid tax bill.

This legislation also revokes the tax-exempt status of U.S. non-profit organizations that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups like Hamas.

No organization that supports terrorism should benefit from the American tax code or receive a tax-exempt status.

Newly launched Supply Information Hub.

My office has launched a Supply Information Hub on my website for folks affected by Hurricane Helene and those who want to help.

Multiple organizations have shared that they have an overflow of resources they want to reallocate, and other groups have voiced that they're still in need of certain supplies.

To help consolidate efforts, my team is stepping in to help match supply requests with available resources.

If you have extra supplies or if you're in need of a specific product, please fill out the form on my website at edwards.house.gov/hub, and my team will do our best to make sure that resources go where they are needed.

Do you need help with FEMA?

As Western North Carolina continues to pick up the pieces and rebuild after Hurricane Helene, I want to remind you that you can apply for FEMA financial assistance to help ease the financial burden of what you've lost.

If you've applied for FEMA relief and need assistance navigating the process, my Hendersonville office can engage with FEMA directly on your behalf and guide you on what documents are needed for your case.

Please call my phone line dedicated to FEMA casework at 223-FIX-FEMA.

Announcing Deputy Chief of Staff Jessie Frank.

I'm excited to announce the promotion of Jessie Frank from executive assistant to deputy chief of staff.

Those who have worked with Jessie in her capacity as my executive assistant can attest to her strong work ethic, steadfast loyalty to my office, and attention to detail. Since moving to DC, her leadership role has risen to new heights, and her contributions are widely recognized not only by our office, but by House Leadership, our committee staffs, and a multitude of other Member offices.

Jessie majored in political science at UNC Asheville, where she graduated summa cum laude. As a student athlete on the Bulldog swim team, she earned her college education through a swimming scholarship as a student athlete. She also served UNCA as editor-in-chief of Dignity, UNC Asheville's undergraduate human rights journal.

Before joining our DC team, Jessie served as legislative assistant and committee clerk in the North Carolina State Senate and interned with the NC Republican Senate Caucus.

Her rich background of experience also includes assistant swim coach, page to the Office of the Governor, intern at the lobbying firm of Smith Anderson Law, and page for the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Jessie's promotion will provide her a path to further develop her leadership skills on Capitol Hill, and to contribute to our team's success on a new level.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,

Member of Congress.

CELEBRATING THE INAUGURATION OF DR. ALI KASRAEIAN AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE DUVAL COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Doc is in. I rise today to celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Ali Kasraeian, MD, MHA, FACS, as the President of the Duval County Medical Society.

For Dr. Kasraeian, taking care of the health of Jacksonville, Florida is a family affair. His parents, Dr. Shahala Masoud and Dr. Ahmad Kasraeian, are also esteemed physicians in the community. Dr. Kasraeian followed in their footsteps to become a distinguished urologist and surgeon.

Dr. Kasraeian's contributions to the medical community are extraordinary. He has introduced cutting-edge technologies such as multiparametric MRI and MRI-ultrasound fusion prostate biopsy to the Jacksonville area. And for more than a decade, Dr. Kasraeian has been a dedicated leader within the Duval County Medical Society, consistently working to elevate healthcare standards in Northeast Florida.

Beyond his clinical work, Dr. Kasraeian engages directly with the community through his weekly radio program, delivering vital health news and empowering listeners to make informed decisions about their well-being. His service reflects a deep commitment not only to advancing medical science, but also to fostering a healthier, better-informed society.

Mr. Speaker, as he steps into this leadership role, we honor Dr. Ali Kasraeian's legacy of excellence, innovation, and compassion. I congratulate Dr. Kasraeian on this well-deserved recognition of his service to Northeast Florida. Keep up the good work and let's go get 'em.

HONORING COUNCILMAN SEAN MORGAN

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend, Sean Morgan, who has served on the Chico City Council for the last 12 years. Like our American founders, he stepped up to serve and is returning back to private life. He has done an outstanding job for the City of Chico and must be recognized for his efforts.

Sean moved to Chico in 1974 at age 4. He attended Citrus and Shasta Elementary Schools, Bidwell Jr. High, and Chico High. In 1993 Sean graduated from the Chico State College of Business.

While raising his two boys, Ashton and Zachary, Sean was involved in local youth

sports for over a decade as a coach, referee, and team parent. Sean's favorite time of year is any day he can watch his own children participating in any activities.

Sean Morgan started his first company while still attending college and was traveling around the country speaking on the small business lecture circuit at age 25. It was here that he learned the value of budgets, living within one's means, and managing diverse groups of people. In addition to being a business owner, Sean teaches business at Chico State University.

In 2012, he was elected as a Chico City Council member and has served multiple roles during his twelve years on the council. Sean's intent as a council member was clear, to return Chico to a safe place to raise a family, an ideal location for business, and a premier place to live. Sean served as Vice Mayor for two years and then Mayor for two years. He served on the Finance Committee for ten years, serving as the Chair for eight of those ten years.

During his twelve years of service on the council, Sean was a strong defender of public safety, the rights of business owners, and the citizens. Sean has been a strong leader through numerous disasters, including the Oroville Dam Crisis, the Paradise Camp Fire, and the COVID pandemic, and fighting to clean up the City of Chico after a lopsided council created a homeless crisis and needle giveaway programs.

On a personal note, for more than 12 years now Sean has been Mr. Chico. He has been the Master of Ceremonies for more events than I can count, including many of mine. He has raised money, he has volunteered, he has been the loudest, most consistent voice for common sense in difficult times. Sean Morgan has sacrificed for the City of Chico. If there was something that needed to be done, Sean is who we all counted on to get it done.

The City, the County and I are grateful for his years of service and commitment to the City of Chico. With sincere appreciation I am happy to honor Sean Morgan for his extraordinary service and commitment. I thank Sean Morgan.

RECOGNIZING DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY, TAYLOR MILLS, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Director of Advocacy, Taylor Mills, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I am thrilled that the end of my time in Congress will not be the end of Taylor's service to the district, as she will now become the District Director for my successor, Congresswoman-Elect Kelly Morrison, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Taylor earned a double major in Political Science and Justice and Peace Studies with a concentration in public policy analysis and advocacy from St. Catherine University and the University of St. Thomas. After college, she was offered the job of a lifetime in the Office of Governor Mark Dayton and (then) Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith. Her passion for constituent services and community engagement were fostered there until Governor Dayton's retirement. In early March of 2020, she was called upon to return to the Governor's Office, as the Director of Constituent Services and Public Engagement for Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. While there, she helped lead the team through multiple crisis situations including: COVID-19, the murders of George Floyd and Daunte Wright, and unprecedented numbers of constituent correspondence, casework, and community feedback. Transitioning from State Government to Federal, Taylor has brought a wealth of experience with her as she continues to build bridges in my office as the Director of Advocacy.

Taylor is a seasoned professional with sound judgement, and her broad experience has proven invaluable. She is a problem solver and creative thinker—eager to rethink systems and processes that are no longer serving their purposes. Taylor is a thoughtful and caring manager who invests her time helping her team grow professionally while also getting to know them personally.

Taylor is a fierce defender of the first amendment and capably coached my team members through moments of protest and celebration. Taylor is a natural in the community, building productive relationships and holding space for diverging viewpoints. Her approach to getting to the heart of the matter is most admirable as she does so in a gentle yet determined way. Taylor is Radical Hospitality in action—when you talk to her, you have her full attention. Taylor's bright spirit and warmth was a welcome addition to our office in a time of uncertainty and we instantly benefitted from her skills as a team-builder, morale-booster, and candy-dish-stocker.

Those who know Taylor well know that she is the biggest "Swiftie", the proudest of dog moms to her goldendoodle Ruthie (named in honor of her idol, Ruth Bader Ginsburg), and is fiercely passionate about making positive change in the world. She is incredibly kind, a listening ear to anybody who needs it, and a powerhouse in this work as a servant leader. She is a true professional in this field, and it has been a joy and an honor working with her over the past year and a half.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and I'm extraordinarily happy that she will continue to do this work and serve the Nation and the people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I wish Taylor all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her service to this Nation in my office—and many more to come.