

academics, he is deeply involved in extra-curricular activities at West Orange High School. He has been a dedicated member of the cross-country and track teams since seventh grade and spent two seasons on the color guard. Sahli is also the president of the math team, chapter president of the National Honor Society, a varsity chess team member and part of the Royal Strings ensemble. His involvement in multiple activities and honor societies speaks to his well-rounded excellence. After graduating high school, he hopes to attend Harvard and study law. Any school would be lucky to have such a bright young mind.

What an incredible accomplishment and a shining example of New Jersey excellence. I Congratulate Sahli. He makes New Jersey proud.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARGARET "MARG" VENEKLASEN

#### HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Margaret "VK" VeneKlasen (Margaret Lorraine Bombasaro)—lovingly known to her family and friends and the broader Santa Fe, New Mexico community as Marg.

It is hard to know where to start in honoring the life, achievements and contributions of this unstoppable renaissance woman who transformed our city and our state for the better over the almost 70 years she gave us. A fierce leader and advocate for women and girls, realtor, entrepreneur, skier, flight attendant, tap dancer, athlete, matriarch, icon, and Santa Fe Living Treasure.

Marg often said "It's better to be true to yourself than be popular." And true to herself she was—although beloved she was for it.

Born in 1927 to a tight-knit, union, Italian immigrant family in Joliet, Illinois, Marg was a young athlete who started her career as a stewardess for United Airlines. It was on a flight that she met Walter Paepcke, who invited her to his new Aspen Ski Resort in Colorado—which is where she discovered two of her great loves: skiing and her future husband, Gordon VeneKlasen.

Marg and Gordon, a geophysicist and WWII veteran, were wed in 1953, and shared their love of New Mexico and each other until his passing in 1998. They moved to Santa Fe in 1956, where Marg met her next love: our Santa Fe mountains. She wrote in her journal at 94: "I see the ski mountain from my window and check on it every morning. I gave up skiing this year, but the mountain is where my heart is."

True to her life-long love of sports—which she encouraged all of her five children to pursue—Marg was committed to making sports accessible to all New Mexican children, regardless of their background. In 1973, she co-established the Santa Fe Public School Ski Program, which helped 40,000 Santa Fe public school children learn to ski. In the 70's, 80's, and 90's, she built and led the Northern New Mexico Soccer Club (now known as the Northern Soccer Club), and through her leadership, in 1981, girls soccer was sanctioned as a varsity sport in New Mexico.

Marg championed "everyone watches women's sports" before it was cool. She herself was an accomplished tennis player, skier, and golfer—she was the first woman to serve on the FIFA National Rules Committee and fought for girl athletes to have access to public playing fields across sports.

A successful real estate broker for over 40 years, she co-founded VeneKlasen Property Management with her husband Gordon, which they ran together for almost 30 years, with a commitment to employing local workers and paying decent wages.

Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe named Marg "Person of the Year" for her commitment to protecting the traditional culture and wellbeing of the city.

A champion for women and girls throughout her life, she served on the boards of Girls, Inc. and the Santa Fe Rape Crisis Center.

In 2002, Marg was asked by the late Governor Bill Richardson to carry the Olympic Torch on its last prestigious leg of its journey: lighting the Olympic bonfire on Santa Fe Plaza.

On January 22, 2025, at the age of 97, Marg passed away peacefully in her beloved home of 62 years.

Today, we include Marg's name and accomplishments into the RECORD. In the words of one of her sons, Garrett, "She taped wings on people and made them into who they were." We add our gratitude for the many flights of possibility New Mexicans took because of her generosity and love for our whole state. It is my honor to enshrine her contributions to our state, culture, and economy in history.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND RETIREMENT OF SOMERSWORTH POLICE CHIEF TIMOTHY J. MC LIN

#### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and career of Somersworth Police Chief Timothy J. McLin.

After 33 years in law enforcement Chief McLin is embarking on a well-earned retirement. For more than three decades, he has served as a member of Somersworth Police department, rising from patrol officer to Chief of Police in 2022. Throughout his career Chief McLin has played a crucial role in supporting Granite Staters through the Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT) and Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP).

In addition to his decades in law enforcement service, Chief McLin is a proud veteran of the United States Navy, serving from 1984 to 1990 in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. Upon his completion of military service, he returned to Somersworth where he began his 33 years of public service to his hometown.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I wish Chief McLin well in his retirement, thank him for his commitment to the people of Somersworth, and congratulate him on a job very well done.

#### RECOGNIZING REGAN HINSON

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Regan Hinson and her service and contributions to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Regan always served our office and our team well. Always a friendly face in the office, she was highly motivated and energetic about her work and her relationships. Regan was very committed to connecting with the wonderful people and beautiful landscapes of Virginia's First District, both of which featured heavily in her communications on behalf of our office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the service and accomplishments of Regan Hinson. May the Lord bless her as she embarks on a new challenge, and I look forward to seeing her continued success in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL'S EDUCATORS RISING

#### HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the 10th anniversary of Educators Rising, a nationwide movement dedicated to eliminating the teacher shortage in America by recruiting, preparing, and inspiring the next generation of educators.

Educators Rising is a community-based, Career and Technical Student Organization that supports middle and high school students in rural, urban, and suburban communities with a passion for teaching in their communities.

With over 60 percent of K–12 educators in the United States teaching within 20 miles of the high school they attended, creating pathways for local talent to enter the teaching profession plays a critical role in addressing our Nation's shortage of teachers.

As part of their Grow Your Own initiative, Educators Rising helps create diverse teaching workforces that reflect communities where students live. Teachers who share similar backgrounds and experiences with their students foster stronger student-teacher relationships, improved academic outcomes including higher test scores, rates of high school graduation and college enrollment, more inclusive school climates, fewer suspensions, and lower rates of chronic absenteeism.

Educators Rising has a presence in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with over 1,400 school chapters and 38 state-level partnerships, and works with institutions of higher education and State Departments of Education to create seamless transitions into the education field.

Over 70 schools across Virginia have Educators Rising Chapters that are contributing to ending the teacher shortage in America. Since 1994, over 325,000 students have participated in Educators Rising, including nearly 145,600 students since its rebranding in 2015.