

Ms. Marigo treats them with dignity, compassion, and respect. She has a talent for connecting with isolated individuals and helping them find comfort in their community. Once Ms. Marigo makes a connection with someone, she sees them through to success, ensuring that they have support every step of the way. Ms. Marigo's work helping those in need is a great inspiration and exemplifies what it means to serve your community.

---

HONORING DEE BRADEN

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dee Braden for her service to the senior citizens of Coles County, Illinois.

On December 31, 2017, Dee will be retiring from the Coles County Council on Aging (CCCA) after 41 years of service. Dee began her career at the CCCA as a Volunteer Recruiter and was soon promoted to the organization's Executive Director. Under Dee's leadership the CCCA was awarded three Illinois Governor Awards for Unique Distinction, one of which came after ten years of research, development, and fundraising that led to the construction of the 25,000 square foot LifeSpan Center in Charleston, Illinois.

I have worked with Dee and the LifeSpan Center staff on several occasions to provide information to my constituents. Dee has always been most helpful and professional. It is clear she loves those she serves at LifeSpan and loves her community.

While serving as the CCCA's Executive Director, Dee simultaneously served her community and its seniors in many other capacities by serving on multiple advisory boards and committees. Dee has been a true champion in her efforts to enhance the quality of life for older adults in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dee nothing but the best in her retirement and thank her for her many years of dedicated service.

---

A LIFE WELL-LOVED IS A LIFE  
WELL LIVED

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Albert O. Orta for his selfless service to our nation.

Albert Orta's extensive career began in 1947 after completion of his entry level training at Lackland Air Force Base as a member of the United States Air Force. There, he tracked and noted weather cycles. Soon thereafter, he was promoted to work on the base's radar and communication equipment as an electronics technician.

After his service with the United States Air Force, Mr. Orta continued to serve his country as an engineer with the United States Department of Defense at Lackland Air Force Base.

His talents for engineering were well recognized and his responsibilities increased. Early in his career, he found himself traveling to well over fifty countries briefing Commanding Generals and U.S. Embassy Ambassadors on communicative data and command post installation projects on behalf of the United States Military. His missions took him to Europe, the Philippines, Indo-China and to countries in Africa and South America, just to name a few.

Mr. Orta also worked on military aircraft as a radar engineer and found himself assisting on the improvements and installation of radar systems in the early B series military aircraft: B29, B36, B47 and B52. Mr. Orta's work was so noted as a leader and accomplished engineer that he was assigned to equipping and testing radar systems in the early F series military aircraft: F84, F86A, F89, F102 and F106. His proud accomplishment was his role as the lead engineer in the development and installation of new radar technology for the United States Air Force's F102 Delta Dagger, a \$6 million project at the time of his assignment.

Mr. Orta's outstanding accomplishments and his willingness to serve our nation faithfully and to the best of his abilities in all positions was recognized by President Jimmy Carter and a host of Generals and Ambassadors acknowledging his incredible service to our nation through his work with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Albert Orta and Mary Louise Guerrero married in June of 1949 and are blessed with 12 children, 31 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren. Throughout his career and travels he recognized that sharing stories of his travels were important life lessons. There is no greater devotion of a father who returned home from a mission to share the experiences he encountered of a different life, different culture and hardships to emphasize the importance of hard work, the importance of quality education, to learn to be resilient and to appreciate the freedoms we enjoy today. He stands proud that his children and grandchildren are successful in their own professional careers; some educators, leaders in the private industries, medical field, financial advisors, some with a heart for public service and some who proudly served our country in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Albert O. Orta for his distinguished career and his proud service to our country; and to Mary Louise Orta for her service in standing alongside her husband, supporting him and their family throughout his missions.

---

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ANDERSON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John Anderson of Minburn, Iowa, who, along with his cousin, Andy Anderson of Cedar Falls, Iowa, became the first Iowans to climb to the summit of Mount Everest on the North Face.

John and Andy have been climbing and hiking for over 10 years. When they decided to tackle the largest mountain in the world over a year ago, they began their training between heavy work schedules, preparing their bodies and minds for the physical and mental challenges such a climb presents. On the afternoon of May 21, all of their preparation paid off when they announced on their Facebook page that they had reached an elevation of 29,052 feet, the summit of Mt. Everest. Alongside the goal of just conquering the tallest mountain in the world, the cousins also used the opportunity to help raise awareness for veterans with PTSD. They plan to use the network they built in promoting this climb to help veterans and their families learn to use outdoor activities to help manage stress.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud of John and his cousin Andy for conquering the largest mountain in the world. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating John and Andy for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

---

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—BRYNDA STRANIX

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brynda Stranix of Yuba City, California, a pillar of the community who exemplifies the qualities of a true public servant. She is a proven leader who embodies a passion to help others. Brynda currently serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation.

Brynda's passion to help the community thrive is reflected in her present and previous work experience in the field of economics. She joined the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation (YSEDC) in 2001 with 22 years of experience in administrative management, accounting and public relations. Since joining YSEDC, Brynda has worked tirelessly with local businesses as well as public and private community leaders to identify ways to improve and expand business in the area.

Brynda takes great pride in her community; she currently serves in eleven officer roles on boards and commissions for economic development, and is a member of twenty-nine various advisory committees who deal with critical issues from healthcare to homelessness and women's issues. When Brynda is not busy attending a meeting, you will always find her attending a community event.

Brynda was presented with the 2016 Athena Leadership Award for achieving the highest level of professional excellence for her contributions in improving the quality of life for others, especially women, in realizing their full potential. Brynda was born and raised in Yuba City and takes pride in raising three delightful grandsons.

HONORING IOANNIS  
IOANNOPOULOS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the important mark that Ioannis Ioannopoulos had on American society, as the original founder of one of the oldest known wooden school houses in the country. In order to fully understand the cultural motivation to establish this historic treasure, one must examine Ioannopoulos's early life. A carpenter by trade, Ioannis Ioannopoulos was the son of George and Maria-Canelas and hailed from the Petalidi area in Messinia that was then known as "Koroni" (the village of Skoutari, Mani). He was known by the Spanish as Juan Genopoly. Ioannopoulos—at the age of 13—was one of a group of indentured laborers brought to the New World by Andrew Turnbull to work an indigo plantation at New Smyrna. This group of 1,403 Minorcans, Greeks and Italians suffered mistreatment, starvation and overextended servitudes at Turnbull's plantation. The people were reduced to slavery, and treated with great cruelty by Trumbull, whose partner in the enterprise was the English Governor of the territory, who kept the colonists in subjection with English troops. This slavery lasted nine years, during which time nearly two-thirds of these colonists perished; but large crops of indigo were raised for the company—one year 30,000 lbs. it is stated.

In 1776, a new Governor having arrived, the petitions of these people for relief were listened to, and they were released from the tyranny of their master. One year later six hundred refugees, led by Ioannis Ioannopoulos, Francisco Pellicer and Antonio Llambias, walked to St Augustine and were granted asylum by Governor Tonym. They became the largest group of immigrants to settle in America in one group at one time. Collectively called "Minorcans", they were an important part of the fabric of St. Augustine history. It was on Saint George Street where the survivors of the New Smyrna Colony first settled after their escape. Since that time, this area of Old St. Augustine has been called "the Greek Quarter" and alternately "the Minorcan Quarter."

Ioannis Giannopoulos built a little house out of red cedar and cypress and put it together with wooden pegs and handmade nails, sometime around 1800. This building was a home first but, as early as 1811, members of the Genopoly family taught the children of other Minorcan families in the first floor "school-room" of this building. As the story goes, Genopoly, in typical Greek fashion, was worried his children would grow up without an education. Genopoly and his daughter Maria Manuela Barbara "Mary" Genopoly Darling were the first teachers. Then Genopoly hired a school teacher, and generations of children from St. Augustine went to school in this building. Juan Genopoly died in 1820.

Today, this preserved building is recognized as one of the oldest schoolhouses in North America. It has become the symbol of their

hard work and perseverance. It's now the main attraction of the historical precinct in St. George Street, Saint Augustine, Florida. John Giannopoulos left a deep imprint in the educational history of St. Augustine by establishing a school in his house. Now restored, it stands as one of the oldest school buildings in the United States.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—AMANDA WALSH

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Amanda Walsh of Davis, California, who embodies the values of a great teacher, educator, and mentor, and displays unparalleled dedication to her work. For Ms. Walsh, teaching is not just a job, but a calling. As an educator at Pioneer Elementary school, she has a positive and lasting impact on the children she teaches every day. Ms. Walsh is dedicated to the overall wellbeing of all students, ensuring that they are safe, fed, and taken care of. She can frequently be found working late to keep parents up to date and involved in their children's education.

Beyond her work in the classroom, Ms. Walsh finds many ways to serve her community. Over the years, she has been actively involved with the Parent Teacher Association and coordinated fundraising efforts for local schools. Ms. Walsh has volunteered her time for the Davis Little League and Davis Legacy Soccer Club.

A mother of three boys, Amanda is always busy, staying involved in her sons' education, music, and sports activities. Between her roles as a mother and a teacher, Amanda is dedicated to the wellbeing and success of children.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
PATRICK J. CHRIST, U.S. ARMY  
(RETIRED)

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Patrick J. Christ, U.S. Army, Retired, from Harker Heights, Texas, for his dedication to our country while serving over two decades in the Army. LTC Christ exemplifies what it means to commit his life to his country and community; he is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

LTC Christ has shown sincere dedication throughout his 23 years in the Army. His commitment to serving his country can be seen through his extensive list of medals, including the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. In addition to his superb work defending our nation, LTC Christ held important leadership positions in the Mili-

tary Officers Association of America and the Association of the United States Army.

After retiring from the U.S. Army in 1992, LTC Christ continued to dedicate his time to worthy causes. He has served as a city council member in the city of Harker Heights, on the Board of Directors for Hill Country Transit, and the Chamber of Commerce. LTC Christ lives a life dedicated to other veterans in his area by working closely with the Area Veterans Advisory Committee and by founding the Harker Heights Veterans' Council. LTC Christ is thoroughly involved in many sports organizations in his area, namely the Tri-County Soccer Club and the T.J. Zimmerman Soccer Tournament which he holds leadership positions in, as well as many other soccer associations. LTC Christ has logged hundreds of volunteer hours in many organizations, including as Admiral of the Texas Navy for Governor Rick Perry. Community activists like him make Central Texas a great place to live and work.

I commend LTC Christ for his service to his community and country. I join his family and friends in saluting his dedication to our country, and being an embodiment of Central Texas values.

TRIBUTE TO NEWARK BETH  
ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER FOR  
PERFORMING ITS 1,000TH HEART  
TRANSPLANT

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I rise to pay tribute to the Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant program at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for performing its 1,000th heart transplant.

Founded in 1901, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is a regional care, teaching hospital that provides comprehensive health care services to local communities. Beth Israel is an important referral and treatment center for patients throughout northern New Jersey, and it is one of only two hospitals certified to perform heart transplants in the state. Staffed with more than 800 physicians, 3,200 employees, and 150 volunteers, the hospital serves over 3 million patients each year.

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center has long been a leader in cardiac care. It performed the first heart transplant in New Jersey in 1986. It was the first New Jersey hospital to use extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for babies awaiting transplants, and it pioneered the use of Left Ventricular Assist Devices for heart-transplant patients.

In August, Beth Israel's Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant Program performed its 1,000th heart transplant. Only eleven other centers in the United States have reached this milestone. Newark Beth Israel Medical Center deserves to be recognized for its achievement. I am proud and honored to have this medical center investing in the health care of my constituents and the citizens of the State of New Jersey.