

Alicia Schindewolf is a student at Everitt Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alicia Schindewolf is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alicia Schindewolf for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING MS. GLORIA LYNN  
VALDEZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Gloria Lynn Valdez of the Department of the Navy, who is retiring after more than 30 years of faithful service to or nation, culminating in her service as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs.

Ms. Valdez has over 30 years of civilian service with the Department of the Navy. Recruited out of the University of New Mexico, she began her Navy career in 1986. Working her way up through the ranks and continually taking on more responsibility, she transitioned to the Naval Sea Systems Command headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Navy's largest command, and became a senior project engineer in the Fast Attack Submarine Program Office. In 1996, Ms. Valdez was competitively selected for the Commander's Development Program, a stepping stone to the Senior Executive Service.

In 2000, Ms. Valdez was selected to serve as the Director, Naval and Commercial Construction, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, for Research, Development and Acquisition, where she had executive oversight of amphibious and auxiliary ship construction programs and overall shipbuilding industrial base matters. In 2002, Ms. Valdez was selected to lead the stand up of a new program office to convert strategic nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines to tactical guided missile submarines. She served as the Deputy Program Manager of that office and then became the Director of the Shipbuilding, Modernization and Sealift Branch, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Financial Management and Comptroller where she was responsible for the management of all shipbuilding accounts.

Ms. Valdez's exemplary performance and versatility was acknowledged with her selection to the Senior Executive Service in July 2009 as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Budget Director in the Department of Homeland Security. She returned to the Navy in January 2010 as the Director of Investment and Development Division in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Financial Management and Comptroller. In January 2012, she became Executive Director, Program Executive Office for Submarines.

Ms. Valdez is currently serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs. She has executive oversight over an annual budget of \$35 billion for all naval shipbuilding and ship weapons systems programs, major ship conversions, and the maintenance, modernization and disposal of in-service ships and submarines.

Ms. Valdez is a great mentor and role model for Hispanics and women seeking positions in the Federal Government. In 2014, she was recognized at the Hispanic Engineers National Achievement Awards Conference (HENAAC) with the Pioneer Award. Representing her heritage, women, and the Navy for the opportunities it provides, Ms. Valdez was recognized for achievements as a dedicated public servant, senior leader, and engineer.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Gloria Valdez that our nation is able to strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, as a fellow New Mexican, to thank her and her family for her honorable service to our nation with the United States Navy. I wish her fair winds and following seas as she concludes a distinguished career of public service.

REGARDING THE CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN SYRIA AND THE PRESIDENT'S IRRESPONSIBLE REMARKS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President to be more responsive and aware of the heavy consequences that weigh behind his comments regarding Syria.

Last week, the President's reckless comments of suggesting that it was time to withdraw from Syria emboldened Bashar al-Assad and his regime to launch yet another round of chemical attacks on innocent men, women, and children in the city of Douma.

This attack claimed the lives of at least 85 people, majority of them women and children and affected hundreds.

I extend my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims killed or injured by the horrific and unjustifiable use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime against an unarmed civilian population.

The world learned through the painful experience of World War I the horror and inhumanity of chemical weapons, which caused unspeakable suffering and killed indiscriminately as we saw in the 1980s when Saddam Hussein's regime used them in Iraq's war with Iran and later against its own people.

The international community cannot again let such an attack go unanswered for to do so will embolden other rogue regimes and terrorists.

The President, as Commander in Chief, is charged with the responsibility of deciding when to use military force to protect the nation and its interests.

But he does not bear this weighty burden alone.

The Constitution wisely provides that it is shared with the Congress, the representatives of the American people.

The decisions we make as a country must be measured and wise as countless lives hang in the balance of our actions.

TRIBUTE TO GUY JOHNSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Guy Johnson, a public servant and administrator. He has retired from public service in April, 2018. Guy Johnson was the Village President for the last twelve years of his 20 year tenure on the Village of Shorewood's Board of Trustees. He has resided in Shorewood for over 34 years.

Guy Johnson grew up in Milwaukee and graduated from Marquette University with an Engineering Degree and from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

He has tirelessly worked on behalf of the Village of Shorewood. Guy was the treasurer of the Shorewood Booster Club and served on the committee that raised the funds for the Shorewood Fitness Center. He is proud of the burgeoning business district, neighborhood initiatives, capital improvements, and access to the lake in the village. Further, Shorewood was the first community in Wisconsin to receive AARP's Age-Friendly Designation because of its safe, walkable streets; better housing and transportation options; access to key services; and opportunities for residents to participate in civic and community activities. I know for all these reasons and more Guy Johnson regards the Village of Shorewood as a true gem.

He and his wife Mary have been together for over 50 years and share a love of service to the community. She is a retired nurse manager and president of the Milwaukee Chapter of the Ladies of Charity, a 400 year old organization started by St. Vincent de Paul that works to clothe underprivileged school children. She graduated from Shorewood High School. They have two sons who attended Shorewood schools from kindergarten through high school. They also have four grandchildren.

Although he will no longer be at the helm serving as Shorewood Village President, he and Mary will remain living in Shorewood as active members of the community. Mr. Speaker, Guy Johnson has left a legacy of strong leadership. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with him over the years in ways to improve the quality of life of those residing in the Village of Shorewood. I am proud to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. Guy Johnson. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from his dedicated service.

GABRINA TICOALU

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabrina

Ticoalu for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Gabrina Ticoalu is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabrina Ticoalu is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gabrina Ticoalu for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CDR ERIC  
BROMLEY, USN

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Commander (CDR) Eric Bromley taking command of VRC-40 Rawhides.

CDR Bromley began his naval career upon graduating the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering. After graduation, he trained as a Naval Aviator and was assigned to VAW-120 Greyhawks based in Norfolk, VA for Fleet Replacement Training. Eric was then assigned to VRC-40 Rawhides in Norfolk, VA to serve as a Detachment Administrative Officer, Schedules Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He was later assigned to VA-120 where he served as an Instructor Pilot, Aircraft Branch Officer, and C-2A Training Officer.

CDR Bromley served on board the USS *Carl Vinson* as a V-4 and V-5 Division Officer, served as "Top Cat" Shooter, and was elected Wardroom President. In 2011, he returned to VRC-40 to serve as a Maintenance Officer and Detachment Officer-In-Charge with Detachment Three with the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*. He also served as a Branch Chief at U.S. Northern Command in Colorado. CDR Bromley currently serves as the Executive Officer for VRC-40 Rawhides after logging over 2,200 flight hours, earning the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3), and Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Eric will be taking command of VRC-40 effective April 27, 2018.

Eric served as my Congressional Defense Fellow in 2014. In this role, I relied on CDR Bromley for his subject matter expertise regarding the United States Navy in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His work ethic, servant leadership, and devotion to duty represent what is best in our nation and military. He is respected by his sailors and is deserving of this leadership position.

I would like to thank CDR Bromley for his service to the First District of Virginia and the Nation. May God bless Eric, his wife Jenny, and their three children, as they take this next step in their lives.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
RAYMOND E. FLICKINGER, JR.

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that while there is record turnover in high level federal government positions, the opposite is true in Barberton, Ohio.

For 70 years, the Barberton Finance Director position has been held by only two men, a father and his son. Raymond E. Flickinger Sr. and Raymond E. Flickinger Jr. have held the purse strings in Barberton all that time.

Ray Sr. took office in 1948. In 1978, Ray Jr. became the assistant city finance director. Ray Sr. retired in 1980 and Ray Jr. took over as Director. On March 31, Ray Jr. stepped down from his position.

Mayor William Judge whose father also served as Mayor noted that Ray has "weathered storms and kept on top of them." I want to congratulate and thank the Flickingers for two lifetimes of public service. I am inspired by these two dedicated officials who did their duty day after day and met the challenges of service for so many years. All the best to Ray Flickinger Jr. in retirement.

I include in the RECORD an article that appeared in the The Akron Beacon Journal on March 26.

FATHER AND SON GUIDED BARBERTON CITY FINANCES FOR 70 YEARS; ERA WILL END THIS MONTH

(By Paula Schleis)

BARBERTON—For 70 years, the man in charge of the city's purse strings has answered to the name Raymond E. Flickinger.

First dad, then son, in a tenure so taken for granted that no one has bothered to challenge either at the ballot since 1968.

The era will end on March 31 when Barberton Finance Director Raymond E. Flickinger—the younger—retires and hands the city's ledger over to someone with a different name.

"It's time," Flickinger said, a smile suggesting that he's already counting down the hours.

While the elder and the younger both held the same post, their jobs were wildly different, covering dramatically different eras as this blue-collar city rose, fell and then embarked on some modern soul-searching.

The elder Raymond E. Flickinger was born in 1910—less than two decades after the town was founded—and grew up in the family's grocery business. Flickinger's, the store, was once an icon in downtown Barberton.

Ray Sr. took his turn on the European front during World War II, participating in the invasion of Normandy.

Two years after the war ended, the local Democratic Party asked if he'd run for the open seat of city auditor a post that would later evolve into finance director.

He won, took office in 1948 and started on-the-job training.

"Things were a lot simpler then," the younger Flickinger said of his dad's era. There were payrolls to make and budgets to balance, but "you didn't have accounting standards back then."

SIMPLER BUDGET

Seated in his office, Flickinger pulled an old booklet from a shelf of documents. It was the city budget from 1954, a 28-page pamphlet itemizing \$757,000 in income and expenditures. Flickinger compares it to this

year's city budget. Almost \$18 million. It takes a nearly 200-page booklet to explain it.

Flickinger, the younger, started doing some light bookkeeping for his dad when he was still in high school.

"He paid me out of his own pocket to do things for him," Flickinger said.

He never expected it to be his career.

"We didn't have a plan for me to take over," he said.

Yet by 1975, wouldn't you know it, that's exactly the course he found himself on. The city hired him as a full-time accountant. By 1978, he was the city's assistant finance director, his dad's second in command.

"Nepotism wasn't an issue back in the day," he chuckled. City Council approved the promotion. No one batted an eye. It was universally accepted that Flickinger, the elder, would groom his son to take over after his own upcoming retirement.

In 1980, after 32 years, the elder stepped down, the younger stepped up. No need to change the name on the office door.

Ray Sr. was 72 when he retired. He hadn't been in a hurry.

"He loved working," his son said. "It was pretty much his life. He was one of those people who could have just worked till he died." But he didn't. He died in 1998.

Barberton was a very different city when Ray Jr. took over.

When his father first became auditor, Barberton was a manufacturing powerhouse. Its founding was unique in Ohio, an industrial community planned by industrialist Ohio Columbus Barber, who set up half a dozen of his own factories and populated them with tens of thousands of immigrants and Appalachian transplants.

But by 1980, the place nicknamed the "Magic City" because of its overnight rise had become a poster child for the Rust Belt.

The younger Flickinger helped navigate Barberton through a recession, a period when many cities were going into default.

"It was thought that cities should start following the same accounting standards as private industry," he said.

What followed were challenging, time-consuming and often mind-numbing rules and regulations. Flickinger rolled with the punches, supported by a talented staff that helped his office evolve into a department that needed to know as much law as finance.

That's also about the time that Flickinger decided on a new administrative style: Avoid the limelight at all costs.

NATIONAL NEWS

Barberton's waning fortunes made national news, and Flickinger found himself quoted in a New York Times story about the town's struggle. The very next day, a representative from a bond rating firm called Flickinger to announce the city was being downgraded because of the story. Flickinger snorted: "I decided I was better off staying in the background. I'm honest and I'll tell people like it is. But I don't need to hear myself talk."

That's a trait that came to Mayor Bill Judge's mind immediately when asked to describe his finance director.

"He does a great job of explaining things, and he's always been the go-to guy, and for that he should have an ego, a big one," Judge said. "But he doesn't have an ego."

Barberton gradually started to recover in the 1990s.

"But the more you collect, the more you spend," Flickinger said. Road programs expanded. Health care costs rose. EPA standards added to the cost of maintaining a city water and sewer department. Salaries ballooned.

In 1954, that little budget pamphlet said \$263,000 was spent on the city's safety forces. In 2018, police and fire will cost residents \$11.2 million.