

Pride. As a proud host of the Gay Softball World Series, Kansas City looks forward to continuing its rich history of supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance for their admirable work with the LGBTQ+ community nationwide and celebrating the 2019 Gay Softball World Series in Kansas City. We are indebted to the NAGAAA which has changed the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals for the past forty-two years and left an indelible mark on our country and communities.

COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, TENNESSEE, ON ITS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Springfield, Tennessee, in honor of its 200th anniversary. Springfield is the county seat of Robertson County, located just north of Nashville and just south of the Tennessee-Kentucky border.

With a little over 16,000 citizens, Springfield has regularly demonstrated exactly what it means to be a tight-knit community. This town is built on a solid foundation of hard work, agricultural acumen, and family values, and it has continued to show these unwavering attributes over the course of its long history.

Although Springfield was not incorporated until 1819, the first General Assembly of Tennessee gave a county seat identified as Springfield to Robertson County in 1796. Two years later, in 1798, the town was established under this name.

Since the early eighteenth century, agriculture has played a large role in Springfield's development, and it continues to provide many employment opportunities for its citizens. Thanks to its rich soil, Springfield thrives in the production of hay, corn, and wheat, but is best known for its production of tobacco. In fact, in 1928, Springfield was labeled as the "Home of the World's Finest Dark Fired Tobacco."

I hope that my House colleagues will join me in celebrating this bicentennial achievement of Springfield, Tennessee. The town and its residents have continued to show the strong faith and values of Tennessee since the days when its first courthouse was built of hand-hewn logs. I wish Springfield and its citizens much prosperity and happiness over its next 200 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING DOUG GIBSON AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I am honored to name Doug Gibson, of Encinitas, as my Constituent of the Month for his 23 years of leadership as the Executive Di-

rector and Principal Scientist of Nature Collective, formerly known as San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

Residents of North County may remember that, not so long ago, our beautiful lagoons and river valleys were not valued for their biodiversity and were threatened by development and pollution. Their outlets to the ocean were blocked and invasive plant species were growing out of control. Few fish or invertebrates could survive in the murky waters. Today, they have largely been restored to their natural states. They provide critical habitats for native plants and animals as well as wetlands for migrating birds.

It has taken years of stable leadership, hard work, and a shared commitment by professionals, local citizens, elected officials, and supportive organizations to restore the ten beautiful wetlands in North County San Diego and South Orange County. They enhance our coastline—from the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon in the south—to the San Juan Creek in the North.

Under Gibson's leadership, the Nature Collective is guiding to completion the \$120 million restoration of the 1,000-acre San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Forty miles of streams have been restored. An annual breaching of the inlet has been established to keep the lagoon healthy. More than three thousand school children in the Nature Collective's nationally recognized school program receive field trips throughout the Escondido watershed. Walkers and joggers can access seven miles of trails from Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Rancho Santa Fe, and new trail connections are coming soon.

Gibson's contribution goes beyond the San Elijo Lagoon. For decades, he has collaborated on the planning of large restoration projects in seven north San Diego County watersheds, including Buena Vista Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, and Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit. He has chaired the San Diego County Wetlands Task Force and chaired five coastal counties for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

There is no doubt that Gibson's dedication to protecting our environment has improved the quality of life for families in Southern California and uplifted our communities. I am deeply grateful for his hard work, and I am proud to recognize him as the Constituent of the Month.

HONORING VIOLET BARTON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Violet Barton, a doctoral candidate at UC Merced who has been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship. While receiving this highly competitive scholarship, Violet lived in El Salvador to research the socioeconomic, racial, and gender inequality present in the country.

During her time in El Salvador, Violet connected closely to her culture as a Latina woman and worked towards uplifting the community. Violet spearheaded the creation of the first ever indigenous Nahuatl spiritual guide leadership program and coordinated with oth-

ers to identify and train future spiritual leaders. She has also recently completed her level four Nahuatl language training at the University of Central America, furthering her understanding and study of the culture.

Violet's passion for her research and the communities she serves has distinguished her as a true pioneer in her field. During her year abroad, Violet was selected to serve as a panelist at the annual Latin American Studies Association Conference in Boston, where she presented some of her ongoing research findings. In addition to the Fulbright Scholarship, Violet received the coveted UC Merced Miguel Velez Scholarship alongside a \$10,000 fellowship from the UC Office of Multi Campus Research Programs.

While earning these countless honors for her academic excellence, Violet has distinguished herself as a student leader who works tirelessly to better the lives of her community. Violet received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2018, the UC Merced Social Justice Award in 2017 and 2018, and during that same timeframe, was nominated for UC Merced's Outstanding Student Leadership for three consecutive years.

Violet's successes do not stop at her professional and academic achievements. Violet and her daughter, Danielle Bermudez, made Fulbright history as the first mother and daughter to receive the Fulbright Scholarship as graduate students during the program's 72-year history. Together, they exemplify the pioneering spirit of UC Merced and the diversity that embodies California's San Joaquin Valley.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Violet Barton for her outstanding leadership, scholarship, and service to her community. I join Violet and her family as they celebrate her incredible accomplishments and wish her the best as she completes her PhD at UC Merced.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRANKLIN AUGUSTUS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Franklin Augustus, a stunt pilot and avid flyer. Mr. Augustus passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019 at the age of 69.

Mr. Augustus was an acrobatic air show pilot and a member of a New Orleans-based group that honored the Tuskegee Airmen. A licensed pilot who had been flying since the age of 19, he once described himself as the "world's only black civilian air-show acrobatic pilot" in a 1988 Times-Picayune Newspaper article. Mr. Augustus performed hundreds of daredevil aerial maneuvers at shows and often visited schools to speak with young students to encourage them to explore aviation.

In addition to being a stunt pilot and avid flyer, Mr. Augustus was a longtime community activist, a U.S. Army veteran, the president of the Lake Charles Tuskegee Airmen Chapter and a Reserve Deputy for the New Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Augustus was a treasure to us all. He lived a fulfilled life doing what he loved to do for so many years. We are forever grateful to

Mr. Augustus for his life and we keep his friends and loved ones near and dear to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Franklin Augustus.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER VANG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Mr. Peter Vang. Peter passed away on Friday, May 18, 2019 in Clovis, California. He was a beloved and well-respected member of the community, and he will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him.

Peter was born on January 20, 1960 in Laos and immigrated to the United States with his family as a refugee after the Vietnam War. He was an embodiment of the American Dream. Peter and his family came to settle in the United States to start a new beginning. His own experiences as a refugee motivated Peter to help those in the Southeast Asian community assimilate to life in the United States. Peter loved the United States and became a naturalized citizen. He was very proud of this accomplishment.

Peter served as the Executive Director of the Lao Veterans of America, Inc., in Fresno, California where he helped the Lao and Hmong soldiers who fought in the Special Guerrilla Unit (SGU) during the Vietnam War. Peter was a driving force in assisting my office with the creation of the Hmong Burial legislation that became Public Law 115-141 on March 23, 2018.

Peter was a hard-working individual who dedicated his life to serving others. During his career, Peter worked for the Fresno County Department of Social Services for over 21 years, until his retirement in 2015. He also spent many years with the Lao Family Community of Fresno. In addition to his professional career, Peter served on numerous community boards and committees and received awards and recognitions during his lifetime. It was most fitting and appropriate that I appointed Peter to the Fresno County Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), where he served with distinction as a commissioner for 22 years. His service to the community will not be forgotten.

Peter was preceded by his mother, See Yang and by his son, Richard Vang.

Peter is survived by his son, Billy Vang who is currently serving in the U.S. Army, stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Billy's wife, Ryoko Vang and their child, Haruka Vang; his daughter, Sarah Vang; his daughter, Mindy Ruz, her husband, Anthony and their children, Valerie and Audrey Ruz; his daughter, Sylvia Phillips, her husband, Matthew and their children, Andrew and Charlotte Phillips; his father, WaCheng Vang; brother, Yeu Vang; sisters, Kaying Moua, Mee Vue and Betty Vang-Do, a long with his nephew and nieces. Peter was a wonderful son, brother, father, uncle and grandfather.

I will remember Peter's good humor, his willingness to always help, his calming demeanor and his smile. He was a great friend and advi-

sor. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and career of Peter Vang, a hero to his family, a wonderful role model for his children and grandchildren, his siblings and friends and an exemplary member of the community.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES "JIM" ALBERT CULLUM, JR.

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of jazz legend Jim Cullum, Jr. who passed on August 11, 2019. Mr. Cullum hails from my hometown of San Antonio. For 60 years he exemplified what it means to be an artist. He is survived by his longtime companion, Donna Cloud; sister, Mary Conoly Hester; children, Bonnie Cullum, Blanquita Sullivan, Lené Conner-Foley, Chris Cullum, James Cullum, Katie Cullum, and Catlin Cloud; and six grandchildren. Although the San Antonio and Jazz community will mourn the loss of Jim Cullum, Jr., his impact will endure for many years to come.

James "Jim" Albert Cullum, Jr. was born on September 20, 1941 to James Albert Cullum and Conoly Prendergast Cullum. At an early age he was drawn to music, listening to his father's records and who was a well-respected jazz clarinetist and saxophonist. In 1953, the family moved to San Antonio from Dallas.

In 1963, the Cullum family established the Landing Jazz Club in the basement of the Nix Hospital, becoming the first nightclub on San Antonio's historic Riverwalk. For decades, the Landing played six nights a week until the passing of Jim Cullum, Sr. Shortly after, the band renamed itself the Jim Cullum Band. Since then, the band performed over 300 jazz masses across the United States. The band and its members became ambassadors of the City of San Antonio, and played in venues like the Carnegie Hall, Austin City Limits, the White House, and the Kennedy Center.

Jim Cullum carried his performances throughout the world and taught music workshops locally. He served as the president of the San Francisco Traditional Jazz Foundation and created the Cullum Riverwalk Jazz radio program, syndicated on National Public Radio broadcasting. The weekly program reached across 200 stations for 25 years.

Cullum was a historian at heart. He dedicated much of his time advocating for the preservation of San Antonio's historic sites. He was known to live by the Golden Rule, holding strong convictions of integrity and respect. Notably, he inspired many to pursue their interest in music and would bring light into every room he occupied.

A mentor, artist, and activist are just a few words to describe such a remarkable individual. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand and recognize this brilliant bohemian who dedicated his life to music and community. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING ELI PANNELL ON WINNING ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION'S CLASS 1A STATE FINALS BOYS WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eli Pannell, a senior from Fulton High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Boys Wrestling Tournament.

Eli Pannell finished his final year at Fulton High school with 34 victories, a record single-season. He won the finals by pinning his opponent in 5 minutes 3 seconds. Due to his victory he not only won the State Finals, but holds multiple records at Fulton. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Eli displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his determination and attitude. Eli is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Fulton so well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Eli that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Eli Pannell on his Class 1A State Finals title in Wrestling.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE WALDORF EDUCATION SYSTEM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Waldorf education system.

The first Waldorf school was established in 1919 in Stuttgart, Germany to reflect the principles of education outlined by Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher, artist, and scientist. These principles aim to nurture the needs of growing children from preschool through twelfth grade and enable them to fully develop their intellectual, artistic, emotional, and physical skills. A Waldorf education allows children to experience music, theater, literature, and writing in unique ways that help them cultivate their imagination and creativity and truly be confident of their place in the world.

The Waldorf Education system plays an important role in our community. Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor, one of the over 160 Waldorf schools across North America, opened its doors in 1980, beginning as a school for grades one through four. Since then, the school has significantly transformed. Today, Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor offers a complete pre-k to 12th grade program and continues to encourage students to take risks, be passionate, and strive to reach their personal goals. Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor is truly dedicated to inspiring our nation's next generation and preparing them to tackle life with confidence, self-knowledge, and a true understanding of the world.