

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY  
OF MR. GEORGE ARNOLD

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, George Arnold's 100th birthday.

George Daniel Arnold was born in Reidsville, Georgia, to Joseph James and Susie Snell Arnold. The youngest of ten, he was affectionately nicknamed GD by his older siblings. George graduated from Dorchester Academy where he received training as a plasterer. After graduation, George left home and traveled through the south, practicing his trade until 1943.

The lure of better opportunities convinced him to join his brothers in Detroit, Michigan. Once in Detroit, he quickly became part of the community by joining Aijlon Baptist Church. Today he is one of Aijlon's longest serving ushers, sitting on the usher board since 1946. In 1943 he also joined the King David Grand Lodge and is a dedicated member to this day. He has earned many titles of distinction such as, 33rd degree Mason, Past Grand Lecturer, Worshipful Master, Shriner, and Knight of the Temple. His past and current positions include Dean of the Most Worshipful Institute of Learning and Past Instructor of the Most Worshipful Institute of Learning, which in August of this year was renamed the George D. Arnold Institute of Learning in recognition for his devoted service to his Masonic Brothers. As part of his continual service, George also performs burial ceremonies in Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, and Grand Rapids.

In short, Mr. Arnold is a dedicated family man, business owner, and Michigander and we are excited to honor him on his 100th birthday.

HONORING THE 2019 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2019 Women of the Year. The honorees represent some of the most outstanding and dedicated women in the 3rd Congressional District. Nominated by their peers, these women and the leadership they have provided are being recognized for playing an integral and crucial role in improving the lives of everyone in their communities.

During the last 50 years women have made great strides in America. It used to be almost unheard of to see women as elected officials, CEOs, senior military officials, doctors or attorneys, but today many of our most successful leaders in the world are women. This progress has not come easy and many women before you have worked hard and strived to achieve the independence and rights you have today. I realize there is more work to be done to ensure that women have equal pay, flexible work schedules and affordable education. Each of the honorees will be a vital part of the future successes for women.

2019's Women of the Year are:

Kellie Geweke Sheeran is a Sutter County native who has worked continuously to give back to her community. A Yuba City High School graduate, Kellie graduated from Chico State with a degree in Organizational Communications before returning home in 2003 to join the family business at Geweke Ford Kia Collision. Over the years, Kellie has contributed tremendously through her family's non-profit organization, Geweke's Caring for Women Foundation, where she served as Director from 2008 to 2010. This organization financially assists local women facing cancer, having now provided over 10,000 women low-cost mammograms and women's health screenings. Under her leadership, the Geweke's Caring for Women Foundation has helped over 430 cancer survivors through numerous grants. Beyond her work with her family's foundation, she has been a steadfast advocate for breast cancer awareness, co-chairing the Pink October Race for Awareness for the last 12 years alongside her sister. Kellie is also an active member of Early Risers Kiwanis and has supported Beale Airforce Base as part of the Beale Military Liaison Council for 10 years, where she has been an honorary commander since 2011. Kellie's passion and dedication make her an invaluable member of the Yuba-Sutter community.

Joyce Hammond is a dedicated educator who has educated thousands of students on topics of health and nutrition. With 24 years of service to the Yuba City Unified School District, she has made a lasting impact on the community. Recently, Joyce has partnered with Sutter County Public Health and CalFresh to promote healthy and active lifestyles by teaching her students about good nutrition and how to make healthy choices through the CalFresh Healthy Living Program. Joyce's invaluable experience in education coupled with her expertise in nutrition has allowed her to seamlessly introduce this new program into her Childhood Development, Early Childhood Careers and Life Management, and Nutritional Science classes. Joyce also takes the time to serve as a co-advisor to the campus Family and Consumer Science Club where she encourages her students to participate in the healthy living program. Joyce's passion, commitment, and professionalism have been a source of inspiration to her colleagues who admire her determination to provide her students with the skills that will help them lead healthy lives for years to come. Joyce's tireless work to improve the quality of life for her students and their families will leave a lasting impact on her community.

Ms. Kathleen Heeren served her country in the United States Army and, following her honorable discharge, continued her life of service by devoting her time to advocating on behalf of her fellow veterans. She is a lifetime member of the American Legion, where she has volunteered for over 21 years. Over the years, Kathleen has served as Commander of the Vacaville American Legion Post 165, Commander of the American Legion 5th District, and the Women Veteran's Representative to the California American Legion. She now serves as the Women Veteran's Representative to the Vacaville Soroptimist International where she has been a member for over 10 years and given her time to a number of committees within the organization. Her generosity and volunteer work have extended to many

youth programs in her community including the Vanden High School JROTC program, local Boy Scout troops, and the American Legion Boys and Girls State programs. Kathleen has truly lived a life of service, wearing the uniform for her country before going on to honor the men and women who served before, after, and alongside her through her work with veteran organizations. Kathleen is an integral part of the Vacaville veteran community and has touched the lives of many.

Kelly Heung has committed her life to helping children of all abilities and backgrounds thrive. Through her many professional and volunteer positions, Kelly has dedicated countless hours to supporting children in her community. Throughout her career she has devoted herself to understanding and meeting the needs of children and has lived that commitment in all her professional and personal actions. Having earned her PhD in Human Development, Kelly became an authority on autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders and now uses her expertise to mentor future leaders in the field. She has also become an active advocate for education in Yolo County, volunteering her time with the Superintendent Parent Advisory Committee, Davis Parent University Board, Davis Joint Unified School District Strategic Planning Committee, Davis Schools Foundation, Parent Teacher Association, and multiple School Site Councils. Kelly has used her positions within all of these organizations to champion the interests of underserved children and ensure equitable treatment for all students throughout her community. Kelly has inspired others with her compassion, conscientiousness, and commitment to being the voice for children who are unable to advocate for themselves. She is generous with her time, energy, and kindness, and is a devoted mother, wife, daughter, and friend.

Rosemary Hicks is a dedicated advocate for children and families in her community. For 42 years, Rosemary has been a devoted part of the Colusa Unified School District. As a former para-educator and current administrative assistant to the Principal of Burchfield Primary School, Rosemary has touched the lives of so many children, teachers, and families. She is known throughout her community as someone who will always find a way to help a family in need. Around the holidays Rosemary is a driving force behind countless community food, clothing, and shoe drives, as well as Toys for Tots programs. She has also served her community through leadership positions in organizations such as the Colusa Little League, IMPACT Thrift Store, the Catholic Ladies Auxiliary, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and many more. She is also an active member of the California School Employees Association where she has been a strong advocate for her colleagues. Through her tireless work and dedication to helping others, Rosemary has become a pillar of support for families and children in Colusa. She is known by everyone in Colusa as the heart and soul of the Colusa Unified School District and the community at large.

Jaye Hurt is dedicated to giving back to the men and women who serve our country and the families who support them. Through her work as the Team Lead at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center, Jaye is highly respected and admired for her constant dedication to ensuring that our Airmen and their families get the services and support that they

need. As Team Lead, Jaye has provided oversight to key support programs that have helped over 73,000 military personnel. She coordinated the Monthly Hearts Apart Program, which provided activities for children and social emotional support for spouses of deployed troops. Jaye has focused many of her efforts on supporting troops and their families during deployment. She facilitated over 50 pre-deployment briefings and ensured that family members felt prepared and supported by the base community. She organized a Deployer Care project that sent more than 400 care packages to deployed troops. She has also worked with local community leaders to ensure viable employment opportunities for Military Spouses. Jaye was also the driving force behind the Annual Base Freedom Walk, where her coordination efforts resulted in the participation of more than 900 students. She also played a role in starting the Travis Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance, is a founding member of the Special Needs Task Force for families with exceptional family members, is a Traumatic Stress Response Team member, and oversees many other support services encompassed by the Diversity Working Group. Through her commitment to excellence and continual support, Jaye has changed the lives of thousands of military personnel and their families.

Erica Hurtado has dedicated herself to improving the lives of children within her community. As a member of the Founding Families for the Dixon Montessori Charter School, Erica assisted in setting up classrooms, offices, and other sites around the campus in preparation for the first school year. For years, she donated her time and skill as a professional photographer to capture photos of students and staff. It was during this time that Erica joined the DMCS board of directors where she is still active today. Erica also helped form the first Dixon Little League Challengers Team, which gave children with cognitive and physical disabilities the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of participating in a team sport. After receiving immense support for the organization from the community, Erica was inspired to create T.E.A.M. Dixon with the emphasis that “Together Everyone Always Matters.” In founding this non-profit organization, Erica was instrumental in helping to break down barriers facing those with special needs while simultaneously helping to build their confidence and increase community awareness and understanding. T.E.A.M. Dixon’s mission, with the help of Erica’s vision and generosity, has spread to nearby towns where they wish to bring the same compassion and kindness to their community. Through her hard work and dedication, Erica has had a positive impact on the lives of countless children in her community.

Roberta James is an active member of her community who has devoted her time to promoting education, reading, and an appreciation for the arts and literature in Colusa. As an educator, she dedicated her career to keeping students engaged in their education, working with families, and mentoring new teachers. Ten years ago, Roberta founded the Virginia Yerxa Community Read and formed a committee of women who established the first one-book project in Colusa County, doing so in memory of another Colusa woman who was a tireless advocate for literacy. Every year, a new book selection is chosen to shine a light

on different areas of the community. Several events are planned throughout the year that bring everyone together to share their interests and experiences through a shared appreciation of that year’s book. Thanks to Roberta’s commitment to the project, the Virginia Read has become part of the fabric of the Colusa community. Roberta still teaches part time while using the rest of her time to focus on art. She founded an Artist-in-Residence program which offers a space for artists to work on their craft in exchange for sharing their talents with the local community. Through this program and her support of the Colusa County Arts Council, Roberta works to promote her community as a destination for those interested in the arts. Roberta is an integral member of her community, consistently finding and addressing the needs of Colusa.

Mary Rose Kennedy has devoted her career and personal life to caring for and educating children. A mother of five, retired teacher, and current classroom volunteer, Mary Rose has touched the lives of countless children in her community. Having retired after more than 25 years of service to the Orland Unified School District, she now has the pleasure of seeing the impact she has made on her community when she is fondly greeted by her former students. Mary Rose was a strong and dedicated educator who was honored as a Glenn County Teacher of the Year, and later inducted into the Glenn County Educator’s Hall of Fame. Though now retired, she continues to volunteer her time in classrooms helping children learn the joy of reading. Her volunteer work also extends beyond the classroom where she uses her grant writing skills to help secure funding for community organizations such as the Orland Arts Commission, the Orland Beautification Committee, and a local club providing scholarships to deserving high school students. Mary Rose is an integral member of the Orland community and has played a vital role in its improvement and growth.

Through her diligent dedication to her community, Juantia Menefee has become an unwavering pillar of support for those in her community with the greatest need. She has devoted her career to serving those in need of housing assistance and ensuring they receive the services they need. Through her work with Volunteers for America, Juantia became part of a national network of service organizations providing life altering support to 1.5 million people every year. She has also worked with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help underprivileged individuals and families find affordable housing and employment. Juantia also volunteers with arts and reading programs at local schools, working to ensure that the students within her community are engaged and successful in their academic endeavors. Juantia’s service to her community can be seen in everything she does, from her career path to her volunteer work, she devotes her time to serving others.

Glenda Nelson was born and raised on Enterprise Rancheria, instilled with the importance of honor and duty in serving her Native People. She surmounted many hardships before becoming one of the first Native American women to graduate college. Glenda then used her voice and her education to protect the Rancheria Lands and the sovereign rights of indigenous peoples, leading to her eventual election to the Tribal Council. Her desire to serve expanded to active involvement in polit-

ical advocacy at the state and federal level, where she provided testimony on legislation and advocated for increased funding, protection of tribal sovereignty, and protection of the Indian Child Welfare Act. She has served as a delegate to the California Nations Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of the American Indians. Glenda played an integral role in developing educational programs and participated in the founding of the Ipakanni Early College Charter School. Glenda has fought on behalf of her community on every issue, serving as a member of the Board of Directors for Feather River Tribal Health, a board member for the Enterprise Rancheria Indian Housing Authority, a delegate to the National American Indian Housing Council, and a delegate to the California Tribal Families Coalition. After years of hard work and leadership, together with the Tribal Council, Glenda is credited with creating hundreds of jobs in the region by making the vision of opening a casino in Yuba County a reality. Glenda’s passionate and effective advocacy on behalf of her community will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Pat Nicodemus has spent the last 35 years serving her community and working to improve the lives of some of the most disadvantaged populations. Early in her career, Pat helped found an emergency foster program where she helped recruit and prepare families to adopt drug exposed infants, ensuring a safe place for children facing unimaginable challenges. Later in her career she began to work on decreasing recidivism by helping incarcerated individuals access parenting classes, drug treatment programs, and other educational services essential for survival outside of the prison system. Pat co-founded the Women’s ReEntry and Achievement Program, a program to guide incarcerated women to address their past trauma, deal with their addictions, and have the best possible chance to become productive members of their communities. Through this program, Pat has helped hundreds of women and their families lift themselves into prosperity. Her compassion, wisdom, patience, and devotion to serving women and families has transformed many lives and her positive impact on her community will span generations.

Vangie Porras has been an integral part of her community of Glenn County and has served in some form since 1989. As one of the first Latino students welcomed into the Orland School district, Vangie faced stark challenges to having her voice heard. But that didn’t stop her from finding ways to become involved in her community. Vangie began her path of service at the Democratic Party booth at the Glenn County Fair in 1989. From there she eventually became treasurer of the Glenn County Democratic Party, holding the organization together with her many years of hard work and well-earned wisdom. Outside politics, Vangie Porras expanded her portfolio of service to the Orland Unified School Board and the Glenn County Fair Board. Her work ensured that current students never had to face the same challenges she faced in Glenn County and held together a tightly knit county fair community. Vangie Porras has become a permanent fixture of public service in Glenn County. On behalf of the people of Orland and the 3rd Congressional District, I offer Vangie Porras my congratulations and well wishes for her future endeavors.

Navneet Randhawa is a dedicated community servant who has routinely taken the time to reach out to people in need and bring communities together. In 2012 Navneet participated in the Sutter County Library's Citizenship Preparation class, where she learned of their Literacy Services Program. She was interested in the opportunity to give back to the library and volunteered a tutor for ESL students with the lowest reading levels. Colleagues and students alike attest to her friendly and welcoming manner as she provided critical assistance with the program. Navneet also worked tirelessly for Casa de Esperanza, a shelter, counseling, advocacy, and education facility for adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. Through her work as a bi-lingual counselor advocate she was instrumental in bridging the gap between the organization and her Southeast Asian community, helping Casa de Esperanza reach more people in need of their services. She also worked to help her colleagues better understand her culture so they could better serve the community. Though Navneet now works as a nurse, she continues to volunteer her time with Casa where she continues to make a positive difference in people's lives. Navneet's unique skill and compassion in bringing together communities and treating everyone with compassion is a joy and inspiration to everyone around her.

Margaret Renn has dedicated her life to educating children throughout her community. Margaret taught in elementary school classrooms for 16 years at schools in San Jose, Vallejo, and Fairfield before going on to serve as an elementary school principal in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District for 16 more years. Now in retirement, Margaret continues her passion for education by volunteering with the Solano County Chapter of the California Retired Teachers Association. In addition to her many years of service as a public educator, Margaret now spends her free time serving special needs children and adults at the Horseplay Therapeutic Riding Center in Dixon, where she has been volunteering for five years, is one of two volunteer coordinators, and serves on their Board of Directors. Through her work at the Horseplay Therapeutic Center she has the privilege of getting to see special needs riders develop physical strength, social skills, and self confidence while expanding their horsemanship skills. Margaret has dedicated herself to the education and wellbeing of others and her service in the classroom and at the stables have had a lasting positive impact on her community.

Jenn Rexroad is a fierce advocate for children and families throughout our community. As the Founder and Executive Director of the California Alliance of Caregivers, Jenn consistently fights for the needs of at-risk foster care children. Jenn was instrumental in creating and implementing a policy agenda that advocated for the rights of foster children and played a vital role in establishing numerous projects important to children and families. Her work on the Resource Families' Policy Summit and the Mental Health Services Parent Stakeholder Engagement Project has furthered the goal of improving mental health services for all children and youth statewide. Her fervent advocacy has helped to create stronger protections and opportunities for those in need. Jenn is in position to continue her vital work by

serving as a First5 Yolo Commissioner and volunteering as the Child Welfare Policy Director for the organization Children Now. Her unbridled energy and concern for those in need are instrumental in creating a more caring and compassionate community. Her work on behalf of children and families in our community will have a lasting impact on generations to come.

Jen Roberts is a passionate activist whose strong and energetic leadership has had a real impact on her community. As founder of Indivisible Colusa, a local volunteer organization focused on engaging in progressive political advocacy, Jen has been tireless in creating ways for local community members to develop their voice. In doing everything from organizing postcard campaigns to composing the Indivisible Colusa newsletter, Jen has been relentless in pursuing ways for community members to engage in the political process on the local, state, and federal levels. She has been known to regularly open her home for meetings and debate watch parties. Her courageous, thoughtful, and principled leadership has allowed Indivisible Colusa to rapidly transform from its humble beginnings in 2017 to the lively and visible presence it is in the community today. Jen is also a founding member of the Colusa County Democratic Central Committee, which held its first meeting in February 2018. Kickstarting this process, Jen was integral in establishing a Democratic party committee in one of the few California counties that didn't already have one. Jen is tireless in her efforts to engage others and ensures that those in her community have a place to develop and express their beliefs while delving into the democratic process.

I congratulate each of them and commend them for their work. I am inspired by them and firmly believe when women succeed, America succeeds.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ANN AND VINCE BELLIS

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#### HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ann and Vince Bellis of Greenville, North Carolina.

In October of this year they were honored by the Friends of Greenville Greenways for their efforts to champion, create, and expand the family-friendly walking, running and biking space. They have given countless hours over several years to the fulfillment of this community-enhancing project.

This couple have been honored for a lifetime of civic engagement, their incredible technical knowledge of the environment including a plethora of horticultural expertise and for unselfishly sharing that knowledge with the community.

Many citizens of Greenville daily enjoy the Greenway and I applaud the work of the Bellis' in making what was once just an idea into a beautiful reality for the betterment of our city.

IN HONOR OF JULIO BALSERA

#### HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Julio Balsera, the extraordinary Cuban activist. He passed away last month at the age of 80.

Born in Havana in 1939, Mr. Balsera spent his early years fighting the Castro regime. He fled Cuba by hiding inside the kitchen cabinets of a cargo ship bound for Caracas in 1960, and in 1963, he made his way to Miami.

Mr. Balsera continued his activism in South Florida. He founded the J. Balsera School Bus Service, which offered children rides to school. Through this business, Mr. Balsera became a key figure in the burgeoning Cuban-American community. He got to know the schoolchildren who rode his buses and their families, and he was always happy to provide vote recommendations. He also sent his buses to mobilize voters ahead of elections and to help Cubans arriving in Florida during the Mariel exodus.

Mr. Balsera sold his bus company after four decades of business, but he continued his activism, leading the charge to recall former Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez in 2011. He was also a founding member of the Cuban American National Foundation.

Julio Balsera's influence can be seen at nearly every level of government in the greater Miami area, and his legacy of speaking truth to power will be felt for years to come. I'm proud to recognize his contributions to our South Florida community.

IN HONOR OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saints Cyril and Methodius School in Lemont, Illinois, for receiving the prestigious 2019 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award. The school was recognized under the Exemplary High Performing Schools category.

In 1982, the U.S. Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. I am proud that Saints Cyril and Methodius School has been honored as one of those exceptional schools.

Saints Cyril and Methodius School has long been a fixture of the Village of Lemont having been founded at the same time as the parish in 1884. The mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius School is to provide an excellent Catholic education in a compassionate environment that strives to develop each student spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally. The school offers an integrated set of courses to motivate students to understand the connection between the classroom and living one's faith. Students are challenged with a