

consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Lindy Lee Gold on the celebration of her 75th birthday. I wish her all the best for many more years of health and happiness. Happy Birthday.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE AND ANNA BIGGS

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 Bruce and Anna Biggs of Elizabeth City, North Carolina who received the first ever Albemarle Area United Way Keel Club Philanthropy Award. For half a century the Biggs' have been giving back to the community with their time, talent and treasure by donating to numerous organizations and causes in the region as well as funding three scholarships.

Students at East Carolina University, the College of the Albemarle and MidAtlantic Christian University have all benefitted from the Biggs' generosity. Bruce Biggs had to borrow money to attend ECU for his bachelor's degree in business and being able to fund scholarships is especially meaningful to him.

Anna Biggs is a retired school teacher. Bruce and Anna have sought to give to others in a community that has been so good to them.

HONORING BOWLES FARMING COMPANY FOR 2019 AGRICULTURE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bowles Farming Company for the 2019 Agriculture Business Award in the Central Valley. Their contributions to the Central Valley extends to many families and to the community.

Bowles Farming Company originated in 1965 by George, Henry Bowles, and Amy Bowles Lawrence. The 3 siblings started the business and their families soon took over making it 6 generations between the Bowles and Lawrence family.

For over 150 years, the families have contributed growing food, creating jobs for many people, and having 14 different crops. They provide over a thousand jobs with over 50,000 days of farming. Their crops include cotton which is the world's only verified pima cotton, Pimacott, tomatoes that are both processed and fresh market, and almonds. Cotton like Pima or Extra Long Staple (ELS) is quality cotton, and Bowles Farming Company produces this quality crop.

Their farm is 11,000 acres and located in Los Banos, California. President and CEO, Cannon Michael is a passionate advocate for agriculture and on water. The importance of water and California's agriculture is a priority to the Bowles Farming Company.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Bowles Farming Company on their 2019 Agriculture Business of the year award. They are an influential company in the Central Valley.

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:

Lynn Rolston has used her creativity, determination, and skilled leadership to have a vast and visible impact on her community. She envisioned an economic rebirth for her rural community of Esparto, if only the right community stakeholders were gathered in the same space. Fueled by this vision for a brighter future, Lynn helped found the New Season Community Development Corporation to revitalize the core business community and to deliver a higher quality of life to her fellow residents of Esparto. Under Lynn's guidance, the New Season Community Development Corp. began rehabilitating unused properties and acquiring tenants for them. Lynn's eagerness to serve her community spread from community development to every facet of her life. Lynn revitalized the Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce by injecting it with fresh new recruits from the newly strengthened Esparto business community. Furthermore, Lynn served on multiple Yolo County committees such as the Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee and the Recreation Task Force, where her efforts helped create the new Tuli Mem Park and Aquatic Center. Lynn Rolston is an example to us all on the positive effects one determined visionary can have on any community.

Beth Rowe is an active member of the Vacaville community who continues to show support and encouragement for women throughout Solano County. Beth has been an active member of the local Soroptimist International club for over four years. In her time with Soroptimist, she has mentored countless girls and actively participated in providing scholarships and grants to single mothers and young students. Beth gave an empowering

speech representing the Soroptimist International of Vacaville regarding the detrimental impact of the rape kit backlog in Solano County on the ability to bring justice to victims of sexual assault. Thanks to her speech, Soroptimist received a \$10,000 grant from 100 Women Who Care which they used to pay for the testing of old rape kits at risk of expiration. Beth has also been a fierce advocate for Assembly Bill 1496, which would mandate the testing of untested rape kits, and is determined to see this bill become law. She draws her strength and desire to help others from her upbringing which shaped her into the advocate she is today. Beth is also a member of Saving Gracie, Angel Fund for Pets, and her local VFW Auxiliary and is passionate about helping families and veterans in her community. Beth is a passionate advocate for those in her community who have the most trouble getting their voices heard.

Heather Sanderson is an active member of the Fairfield community who uses her time and talents to support and advocate for at-risk youth. She possesses the skills, commitment, and compassion to be an uplifting force for the entire Fairfield community. In her work as the Police Activities League Coordinator, she provides marginalized youths with after school programs, providing healthy food options, positive activities, and life changing opportunities. She has also introduced several programs to the community that focus on reducing violence and teaching younger generations how to navigate emotions such as fear, anger, and stress. She has developed valuable partnerships with community organizations to further the positive impact of the Police Activities League programs. Heather's generosity, kindness, and compassion make her an inspiration to all her peers. Her work has changed countless lives and left a lasting positive impact on her community.

Cherie Schroeder is an exceptional and selfless community servant whose work has had an incredible impact on Solano and Yolo Counties. As the Director of the Foster and Kinship Care Education Program at Woodland Community College, Cherie is a tireless advocate for foster youth and consistently provides support and guidance for the most vulnerable among us. For over 34 years, Cherie has put her heart and soul into this work. Her work ethic, compassion, and intellect have made her a wonderful rolemodel for all those she interacts with. In addition to her work as Director of the Foster and Kinship Care Education program, she is a longtime member of the Soroptimist International of Dixon. When she served as President, Cherie oversaw the development of the Young Woman of the Month program which recognized local women for their outstanding achievements within their community. Through this program, she mentored countless young women and ran a generous scholarship initiative. Cherie serves her community with unparalleled kindness and compassion and has touched the lives of many.

Harmony Scopazzi is a vital and appreciated part of this community. She is dedicated to ensuring that every family in Yolo County is successful, happy, and healthy. For the past 13 years, Harmony has worked for Davis Community Meals and Housing as a Family Case Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Harmony has selflessly devoted her time and energy to the mission of protecting

Yolo County families from food and housing insecurities and is a truly valued member of the agency. She is endlessly generous, caring, loving, and respectful and she will always go out of her way to help those around her. For the past five years, Harmony has served as a foster parent, opening her home to ensure that there is a safe and loving environment for any child in need. Her service as a foster parent is one of many ways in which she demonstrates her generosity, kindness, and drive to help others. Harmony has touched the lives of countless children throughout our community and her positive impact cannot be overstated.

Julie Shuffield is a renowned entrepreneur, dedicated community servant, and strong advocate on behalf of women. Julie long ago discovered her abiding passion for infrastructure development, operation, and strategic planning. Julie has long maintained this passion for infrastructure and appreciated its role as the backbone to safety, resilience, and a high standard of living for our local communities. Her decades of experience, first as manager of External Affairs for California Independent System Operation, then as Director of Regulatory and Government Affairs, and now as Senior Consultant for Advantage Consulting, have seen her exercise this passion to ensure the highest quality infrastructure standards are met for every project in which she is involved. Her ability to respond with foresight, flexibility, and ingenuity to any and all challenges that come her way have allowed her to make significant contributions across many fields. As owner of her own S-corporation and partner at her consulting firm, Julie knows what it takes to thrive as a female entrepreneur. She used this knowledge to assist in launching a United States branch of the Hawthorne club to promote female executives in energy to C-suite and board positions. In the community, Julie serves as Chairperson of Casa de Esperanza, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Additionally, she has served as Co-Founder of Yuba-Sutter Back the Badge, a local law enforcement trauma and spousal support team, as well as being a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards counselor for over a decade. Through her career and volunteerism, Julie has made countless contributions to her local community.

Cathy Speck has led a life of activism and perseverance, demonstrating at every turn her indomitable spirit. Cathy has faced a great deal of hardship in her life, living with two debilitating diseases and watching much of her family do the same. Despite these challenges and more, she has consistently spread joy in her community through her music, art, writing, and infectious spirit. Cathy has also fought for righteous causes, acting as a fierce advocate for marriage equality and ALS awareness. In 2009, Cathy was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a rare degenerative disease that has claimed four of her family members already. She takes part in many efforts to raise awareness about ALS, and as a columnist at the iPinion Syndicate, Cathy further raises awareness and support for those diagnosed with ALS, using compassion and humor to discuss a difficult topic. In addition to her work as an activist, Cathy is deeply invested in community building. For the past several years, she has organized a yearly Christmas caroling excursion to Courtyard Healthcare in Davis to foster friendships and

bring smiles to long term patients. She is also a booster of the Dorothy Speck Memorial Basketball Tournament at Davis High School, the longest running girls' basketball tournament in the country. Cathy consistently demonstrates her unwavering commitment to use all that she can, from her activism to her artistic talents, to make her community a better place.

Dee Tokiwa has dedicated her life to helping others in her community. Dee works as a nurse in oncology and bone marrow transplants at Sutter General Hospital, but this demanding career never stopped her from volunteering her time in her community. For several years, she has volunteered at Alamo Elementary School in Vacaville, where she has overseen numerous activities and events. She has spent countless days with the children during their recesses where she created new games, encouraged participation, cultivated compassion, and fostered understanding amongst the students. As an advocate for education and literacy, Dee took the time to organize the district-wide Novel Knowledge program. This competition for students between fourth and sixth grades quickly became an avenue for children to improve their reading and critical thinking skills. She also served as the chairperson for the annual Scholastic Book Fairs and planned a book drive fundraiser which received enough books to fill the school library and classrooms. She contributes to her community in many ways, living up to the Mother Teresa quote by which she lives, "Not all OF US can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." She is a loving mother and devoted member of the community who exudes kindness, humility, and generosity.

Tracy Tomasky is a fierce advocate for the rights of others who consistently works to build communities of respect and acceptance. Tracy serves as the co-chair of the Davis Phoenix Coalition, a nonprofit organization that works to build diverse and inclusive communities and advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ members of our community. Tracy is passionate about the work she does fighting for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, preventing of hate speech, and promoting immigrant rights. As the volunteer coordinator of the Davis Phoenix Coalition, she always comes prepared with a plan on how to best utilize the skills of the group and bring out the best of everyone's abilities to further the organization's mission. Tracy has a rare ability to bridge divides and bring communities together to deliver positive change through collaboration. Tracy's work on behalf of those who are underrepresented has made Davis into a safer and more inclusive community that is welcoming to all. Her tireless advocacy has had a widespread and lasting impact that cannot be overstated.

Kim Travis has dedicated her career to guiding young athletes to reach for and achieve their goals. As the girls' volleyball coach at Pierce High School in Arbuckle, Kim has served as a wonderful role model to each of her students. She is a proactive coach who has worked hard to build a successful high school and club volleyball team. Her coaching style exercises team building by developing their skills and confidence, teaching her players that success comes from failure. Her role in the community is felt by all. She started a youth camp program for children between first and eighth grade, and for the past ten years, has dedicated her time on the boards of Arbuckle and West Side Little League. She also

volunteers for Pierce Pride Foundation and Dynamix Club Volleyball where she actively fundraises for sports equipment and programs. More recently, Kim organized a volleyball tournament between two alumni high school teams in Colusa to remember and honor fallen Davis Police Officer and Pierce High School alumni, Natalie Corona, bringing her community together in a difficult time. Many have come to know Kim as a leader, teacher, and friend and she has touched the lives of countless young athletes whom she has mentored.

Diane Vafis has lived for over 50 years in Colusa, where her love and kindness has touched the lives of countless people. Currently serving as the Co-Director of the after-school program operated by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colusa, she has worked to provide after-school tutoring to fourth graders for over 12 years. Diane takes extra care to create a healthy and nurturing environment for her students, personally picking up the children after school, providing craft sessions, and communicating closely with her students' teachers to maximize their success. Broadening the impact of her investments in local education, she became a vital member and treasurer of the Colusa County Alpha Kappa Chapter of Omega Nu, which provides academic scholarships to local high school graduates. In addition to cultivating after educational programs, Diane is the Civic Beautification Chair of the Garden Club of Colusa County, which is responsible for planting and maintaining gardens in public spaces such as libraries, post offices, and the courthouse. Diane demonstrates an unwavering dedication to serving her community and serves as a role model for everyone around her.

With a wealth of business knowledge and a heart of service, Sarah Villegas has become a staple in the Dixon community since first moving to California as a military spouse. She began her career with the Dixon Tribune in 1988 working long and hard hours to ensure the paper published a fair and balanced interpretation of the local news. Recognizing her leadership and management skills, the owners asked her to manage operations for the Benicia Herald, The Martinez News Gazette, and the Rio Vista River News Herald. Despite her long hours involved in her newspaper career, Sarah managed to find time to dedicate countless hours to the Dixon community. She is involved with the local Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Dixon Business Association and is the President of Dixon Family Services, a non-profit which helps families and individuals who are experiencing difficult times. Sarah Villegas is a champion of women in business with a heart for public service. Strong in her mind and body, she continues to be involved in the local community and is an inspiration to those around her. On behalf of the citizens of Dixon and the people of the 3rd Congressional District, I extend my sincere appreciation to Sarah for her enthusiasm and dedication to her community and love for her family.

Tina Viramontes' commitment and love for her community as a leader is reflected by her involvement in several campaigns and community events. She worked countless hours to help pass Measure V, a local measure which would improve the roads in the City of Clearlake. She's a staple in the local youth sports community where you will often find her volunteering her time by helping at events or

providing rides to the parents of athletes who have no way to get to the games. As a community leader, Tina organized the 1st Annual Soapbox Derby, a family friendly event that inspires children and adults to create the fastest gravity-powered, or most creative vehicles, they can and race in front of cheering fans. This was especially important to Lake County in that it was simply a joyous occasion for the entire community after four straight years of disastrous fires. Tina Viramontes is a Deputy City Clerk for the City of Clearlake who has a heart for public service and a strong desire to help people. She greets everyone with a smile, a cheerful attitude, and helps them navigate through the various departments with professionalism and integrity. On behalf of the Clearlake community and the people of the 3rd Congressional District, I offer Tina Viramontes congratulations and my well wishes in her future endeavors.

Dr. Vajra M. Watson has had immense influence the community during her career at UC Davis as the Director of Research and Policy for Equity. Her poise, work-ethic, and commitment to making the world a better place stands unmatched. Dr. Watson devotes her time to creating and expanding upon various academic and community-based programs. She digs in to solve problems on the ground, putting her renowned academic research to work. Just a few of the programs that she helped develop include Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS), the UC Davis Campus-wide Equity task Force, and the UC Davis Outreach Center. Dr. Watson has been an invaluable figure for the African American Community, creating and fighting for these life-altering programs. Her work supports the education and elevation of marginalized youths from disenfranchised communities. Her SAYS program has been instrumental in helping teachers learn to incorporate authenticity in the classroom environment to engage and enrich their students. In addition to her hands-on work in the community, she has contributed to the education canon of academia with a multitude of books and peer reviewed studies. Her book *Transformative Schooling* addresses many of the central aspects of our time as she delves into the structure and nuances of America's education structure, as well as the necessary action that must be taken. On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District, I offer Vajra M. Watson my sincere best wishes and continued success.

Jeanine Werner has dedicated much of her life to improving the lives of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, or those that have physical and cognitive disabilities. Her empathy and drive started early in her life, leading her to begin working with these populations in high school. As she continued to develop her professional career, she never abandoned her original goal. After working with these populations as a classroom aid, she eventually took on the opportunity to work with adults and children known as "Campers". These "Campers", who are attendees of Lion Camps for people with disabilities, undoubtably benefited from her kindness and commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Upon returning to Yuba City, Jeanine involved herself with Casa de Esperanza, a shelter for those suffering from abuse and violence. Jeanine then began work as a Counselor Advocate for the First Responder program. Shortly after, she was promoted to be Project Director for the

program because of her skill and passion. During her time at Casa de Esperanza, Jeanine transformed several programs and projects through expansive training, education, and outreach efforts. Her desire to improve the lives of those around her continues to benefit our community. On behalf of the people of Yuba City and the 3rd Congressional District, I am pleased to congratulate Jeanine Werner as a 2019 Woman of the Year for her dedication, passion, kindness, and intellect.

Kristina Wiley's dedication to helping others is unparalleled. In her tireless work to improve her community, she has served as president of Soroptimist, a non-profit organization devoted to improving the lives of women and girls across the country. In addition, Kristina has raised money for charities and even traveled to Haiti to perform dental surgery for those in need. In her work in Dixon, Kristina has raised tens of thousands of dollars for breast cancer research, donated to the funeral funds of those in need and raised \$47,000 for animal welfare. In addition to these great contributions, Kristina has devoted her time to mentoring children and even taken children in need under her wing while they get back on their feet. Kristina has also used her skills as a DDS in Haiti, traveling there 5 times in order to perform much-needed procedures on those who would otherwise not have access to dental care. Her involvement in the community has improved many lives and will continue to do so in the future.

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

IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFE RETURN OF AUSTIN BENNETT TICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Austin Bennett Tice's prolonged captivity in Syria, where he has been held since August 14, 2012; over seven years.

Austin is an American journalist who headed to Syria to work as a free-lance reporter for the McClatchy News Service between his second and third years at Georgetown Law School. A native of Houston, Texas, and a Georgetown alumnus, Austin is an exceptional young man who demonstrated his determination and potential early in life as both an Eagle Scout and a National Merit Finalist.

After graduation from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. As an infantryman, his service included tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. At the time of his capture, Austin sought to ensure that the world understood the tragic situation in Syria. Because of his dedication to our country, we owe this young man every possible effort to affect his release.

Presidental Policy Directive 30, U.S. Nationals Taken Abroad and Personnel Recovery Efforts, clearly commits the Government to working in a coordinated manner and utilizing all instruments of national power to safely recover hostages. We appreciate that commitment and were grateful when the FBI announced last

April a \$1 million reward for Austin's safe return. We are aware that the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell has been engaged with efforts to secure his release for several years.

Madam Speaker, it has now been over four years since that Presidential Policy Directive was finalized, and we strongly urge the President and State Department officials to personally ensure that the U.S. government galvanizes its efforts and employs all appropriate means to secure this young man's safe and expeditious return to the United States.

WAR EMERGENCY PIPELINE HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the November 11, 2019, dedication of an Illinois State Historical Society Historical Marker for the Completion of the War Emergency Pipeline in 1943 from Longview, Texas, to Norris City, Illinois.

Before the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and entry of the United States into World War II, 95 percent of the crude oil delivered to east coast oil refineries was transported by tanker ships, with 90 percent of that from Texas oil fields. In 1942, oil tankers from the Gulf of Mexico were being sunk by German submarines at the rate of three per day. A committee appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt recommended an overland pipeline be built from Longview to Norris City.

Work began at Longview on August 3, 1942, and a dedication ceremony at Norris City was held upon completion, February 19, 1943. Newspapers and radio stations recorded the event; the newsreels were shown prior to movies in theaters all over America. The first day, 60,000 barrels of crude oil flowed into Norris City. The first trainload left Norris City the night of the dedication with 96 oil tankers.

Fifteen 80,000-barrel storage tanks and three loading racks had been built. 13,500 barrels of crude oil were received hourly on this pipeline between February 19 and September 1, 1943. The railroad hauled 124,193 tankers of oil out of Norris City. The War Emergency Pipeline put 3,500 people to work.

Madam Speaker, the pipeline's impact on the war effort was tremendous, enabling the safe and timely transport of oil vital to the allies during the height of wartime service. I want to extend a warm thank you to the Enbridge-Texas Eastern Company and The Illinois State Historical Society for collaborating to ensure an important piece of this nation's history is preserved for future generations.

HONORING MARK BORBA FOR 2019 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Borba on the occasion of