

armed men holding Austin. This was the last information received from the captors.

Although Austin Tice has spent far too many days, months, and years in captivity, crucially the United States government believes Austin is alive. The FBI is offering a one-million-dollar reward for information leading directly to his safe location and return. His parents, Debra and Marc Tice, have been consistent beacons of hope throughout Austin's captivity, working passionately for his release, and never losing hope for their son's safe return. Their love for their son has had the power to mobilize a large, bipartisan, bicameral group of Members of Congress from all over the country. I was proud to join my colleagues this September in a letter to President Trump calling for him to use the full weight of his national security team to bring Austin home, and I renew that call now.

Austin Tice has been separated from his family, friends, and loved ones for far too long. He has spent too many birthdays in captivity. I join my colleagues in calling upon those who are keeping him in Syria to let Austin Tice go. Let him return safely to his family and his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF IMAM HAAZIM FAQUEEH RASHED

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Imam Haazim Faqueeh Rashed, as his family and the Sacramento community gather to remember him. Imam Rashed dedicated his life to the advancement of all communities, regardless of faith, in Sacramento. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Imam Haazim Rashed.

Imam Haazim Faqueeh Rashed graduated from Stanford University and attended Yale University Law School. His professional career began with progressing economic development as a Director for the National Development Council. He dedicated himself to the education of various economic development professionals and initiated the revitalization of communities across the nation.

In 1972, Imam Haazim Faqueeh Rashed converted to Islam and dedicated his life to his faith and service. In 2003, Imam Rashed moved to Sacramento and played a foundational role in establishing Sacramento's Masjid As-Sabur and soon became its Imam. In addition to leading his congregation, he was involved in numerous organizations and dedicated much of his time to the Sacramento's interfaith and community efforts through the Council of Sacramento Valley Islamic Organizations (COSVIO), Sacramento Area Congregations Together (Sac-ACT) and served on the Board of CAIR-Sacramento Valley/Central California.

Imam Haazim Rashed worked tirelessly to help those in need and was known for his jovial uplifting character. He lifted the spirits of others and gave his life to helping community members. Imam Rashed was a devout husband, loving father and doting grandfather. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife of 46 years, Janice Davis Rashed, his children, extended family, and his community as Imam

Haazim Rashed has touched the lives of many.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Imam Haazim Faqueeh Rashed, a man who has dedicated his life to the advancement of the American Muslim community and all communities in Sacramento. As Imam Haazim Faqueeh Rashed is being honored with the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring his contributions to Sacramento and beyond.

HONORING THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one great agency in my district. On November 17, 2019, the Water Replenishment District celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is a groundwater management agency that has developed innovative projects and programs for locally sourced, sustainable water to replenish two of the most utilized urban groundwater basins in the United States. WRD was established in 1959 in response to unregulated and unmanaged over-pumping of our aquifers which caused many drinking water wells to go dry.

Located in Lakewood, California, WRD is the largest groundwater agency in the State of California. The district's service area covers a 420-square-mile region of southern Los Angeles County, the most populated county in the United States. They provide half of the drinking water for 43 cities and over 4 million people. Due to WRD's hard work, that water is now completely locally sustainable.

These efforts include programs like Water Independence Now (WIN) and new facilities like the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning (ARC) in the City of Pico Rivera. WRD has shown a dedication to sustainability and a commitment to providing safe drinking water to residents in its service area, which includes the majority of the 38th Congressional District of California.

I am honored to represent districts like WRD and look forward to what the next 60 years have in store.

CONGRATULATING BARBARA GREEN ON RECEIPT OF THE CHAMBER CHAMPION AWARD

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barbara Green of Lehigh County for being named the recipient of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Champion Award.

The Chamber Champion Award is presented to a successful and esteemed business or individual that is well-known to oper-

ate with integrity and that has been a long-time member and premier supporter of the Chamber, its mission, and its goals. After graduating from Lehigh University, Ms. Green began her career with Ernst & Young where she supervised audits on manufacturing, construction, health care and insurance clients. After serving in key management roles at a variety of companies, Ms. Green began with Blue Mountain Resort in 1993 as she served as Controller for 5 years, implementing an innovative new ticketing system for the ski area. After the passing of her father and founder of Blue Mountain, Mr. Ray Tuthill, Ms. Green returned to Blue Mountain in 2007 to serve in her current role as President, where she oversees a full-year destination that attracts over 500,000 visitors each year. The fabric of our Pennsylvania communities is made stronger by the hard work and dedication that Ms. Green has shown to our community throughout her career.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barbara Green on this great honor and thank her for her commitment to our community.

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY 2019

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of Women's Entrepreneurship Day which is celebrated around the world each year on November 19th.

Women are leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs that drive economic expansion and advance communities around the world. Between 2018 and 2019, U.S. women of all backgrounds started an average of 1,817 new businesses per day, representing 42 percent of all businesses. These businesses generate \$1.9 trillion and employs 9.4 million workers. 5.4 million businesses are owned by women of color and 99 percent of women-owned businesses are small businesses. I applaud these women entrepreneurs and their undeniable impact.

I also applaud Wendy Diamond who has personally spearheaded the Women's Entrepreneurship Day movement. Since her campaign launched in 2013, her Women's Entrepreneurship Day organization has funded 500 Syrian refugee girls in Jordan so they could attend high school, launched an initiative in Oman to empower women and girls to vote against arranged marriage, and partnered with a Uruguayan university to offer scholarships to young women. Women's Entrepreneurship Day is now celebrated in 144 countries and 110 universities and colleges internationally, with numerous global ambassadors. The Women's Entrepreneurship Day mission is to empower, celebrate, and support women in business worldwide to alleviate poverty.

On Friday, November 15th, Ms. Diamond hosted a Women's Entrepreneurship Day event in New York City at the United Nations in order to empower, celebrate, and support women and girls globally to alleviate poverty.

During this event, Ms. Diamond and her organization honored the following individuals with their respective awards:

Leah Solivan—General Partner Fuel Capital & Founder TaskRabbit—Technology Pioneer Award;

Stephanie Newby—Founder Golden Seeds, the premiere early-stage investment firm for women-led companies & Former CEO Crimson Hexagon—Financial Pioneer Award;

Patty Baker—Philanthropist, Broadway Producer, Founder Baker Scholars, Board Member Hunter College Foundation (Baker Theater Building), New York Public Theater, Naples Players, Baker Art Museum & Milwaukee Repertory Theater—Philanthropy Pioneer Award;

Norma Kamali—International Fashion Designer, Founder/CEO Normalife, Founder/CEO Wellness CAFE & STOP OBJECTIFICATION CAMPAIGN—Fashion Pioneer Award;

Hannah Stocking—Global Entertainer with 25+ Million Followers—Influencer Pioneer Award;

Missy Elliott—Grammy Award-Winning Musical Artist—Music Pioneer Award;

Francine LeFrak—Founder/Visionary Same Sky, Chair Harvard Kennedy School Women's Leadership Board & Founder LeFrak Productions—Accessory Pioneer Award; and

Wendy Diamond—Social Entrepreneur, Impact Investor, Humanitarian, Animal Advocate, Best-Selling Author and CEO/Founder of Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization—Humanitarian Pioneer Award.

Madam Speaker, I urge the entire House to recognize these remarkable role models, and to celebrate Women's Entrepreneurship Day this year and every year moving forward.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS JURY DUTY EXCLUSION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Breastfeeding Mothers Jury Duty Exclusion Act of 2019. My bill would allow breastfeeding mothers summoned for jury service in federal court or in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to be excused from service for the period they are breastfeeding an infant. This would be optional for the mothers. Breastfeeding mothers would be allowed to serve if they do not wish to take the exemption. The benefits of breastfeeding

are well-documented, and breastfeeding mothers should not be deterred from breastfeeding because of a jury summons.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Pub. L. 105–33), Congress took responsibility for paying for the D.C. courts and other state-like functions previously provided by D.C. The D.C. courts, however, have always been under the control of Congress, even when they were funded by the District. The Home Rule Act prohibits the District government from enacting any law relating to Title 11 of the D.C. Code. Title 11 establishes the exemptions from jury. Therefore, this bill is necessary to provide this exclusion for both the federal and D.C. courts.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

BARSTOW CITY COUNCILMEMBER RICHARD HARPOLE RETIRES

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Barstow City Councilmember Richard Harpole, who departed the dais on November 18, 2019.

Richard Harpole was born on October 8, 1958 in Illinois. He came to Barstow by way of the United States Army, where he served at nearby Fort Irwin as a military police investigator. While stationed at Fort Irwin, he met his wife Donna, and married her in 1984. After his marriage, he was honorably discharged from the Army and joined the Barstow Police Department. During his time with the Barstow Police Department, Richard focused heavily on combatting gangs and drug trafficking, and is still a lifetime member of the California Narcotic Officers Association. He retired from the Barstow Police Department in 2008 as a lieutenant.

After his retirement, Councilmember Harpole stayed involved in his community. He served on the board of the Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce, the Boys & Girls Club of Barstow, Mojave Valley Volunteer Hospice, and the Barstow Humane Society. Councilmember Harpole was elected to the Barstow City Council in 2012 and won reelection in 2016.

Councilmember Richard Harpole has a history of serving his community throughout his

life, from his service in the United States Army and Barstow Police Department to his civic engagement across numerous boards of directors and culminating in his service as a Barstow City Councilmember. I congratulate him on a very well-deserved retirement and will miss his presence in the City of Barstow.

HONORING IRENE BLESSING

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Irene Blessing, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on November 23, 2019. Irene is the oldest living female veteran in Vanderburgh County, having served as an Army nurse in World War II.

Born the daughter of a World War I Navy veteran, Irene felt the call to serve her country after the United States was drawn into World War II. After enlisting on May 26, 1943, she made her way to the 228th Army Hospital in Sherborne, England. Her most trying moments in the hospital came in the wake of D-Day. After being woken up by the deafening noise of airplane engines overhead, Irene and the rest of the hospital staff began receiving patients two days later. The incoming flow of patients was so steady that the hospital hardly had time to do the laundry. Despite the stressful circumstances, Irene served with distinction and honor, providing quality care for wounded Allied soldiers. She and her fellow nurses also graciously treated wounded German prisoners-of-war. When asked retrospectively about the hospital's treatment of German soldiers, she said, "They were people, and we had to do it." After two years of service, Irene was honorably discharged.

Irene's dedicated service has inspired Hoosiers and fellow Midwesterners throughout her life, especially her own family. Her two sons, Arthur and Paul Midle, followed her footsteps into the armed forces, serving in the Marine Corps and the Air Force respectively.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to recognize Irene on her great milestone. On behalf of Indiana's 8th District, I wish her well and I thank her for her service to our country.