

## ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate April as National Arab American Heritage Month to recognize the tremendous contributions Arab Americans have made to our great nation. Arab Americans have been, and continue to be, an invaluable part of our American life.

Arab American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of people in the United States with Middle Eastern roots as well as for the public to become informed about the history of Arab Americans in the U.S.

Arab Americans are among the most loyal and patriotic Americans and have positively impacted communities throughout America with contributions to the medical field, agriculture sector, law, business, education, the entertainment industry, politics and beyond.

While celebrating their rich cultural heritage and embracing resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed, Arab Americans have added strength to our democracy.

While many unfairly perceive Arab Americans as unknown or unfamiliar, Arab Americans first began to arrive on American shores in the late 1800s. About half of the estimated 3,700,000 Arab Americans living in the United States were born in the U.S., according to the 2000 U.S. Census and the Arab American Institute.

Arab Americans join all citizens in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe. Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month allows us to promote public education, awareness, and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Arab American in all aspects of American society.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to represent the Arab American constituents in my district, many of whom I call friends, and to recognize the incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans who have helped us build a better nation.

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF CONCERNED MEN COOK

HON. JIM COSTA  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Concerned Men Cook on their 25th Anniversary. Since its founding by former Merced County Assistant Superintendent Denard Davis, Concerned Men Cook has provided an opportunity for members of the community to break bread while raising money for scholarship funds for local schools in Merced.

As an educator deeply involved in multiple community organizations, Mr. Davis started Concerned Men Cook after participating in the Men's Cook competition in Los Angeles. Using his connections from the multiple organiza-

tions he was involved with, Mr. Davis brought together educators, businesses, and community organizations to host a competition to fundraise money for scholarships for Merced County students.

Mr. Davis was also a founding member of the Black Businessmen and Black Educators of Merced County and president of an African-American investment group that provided affordable housing to the residents of South Merced. Though he passed away in 2015, the Concerned Men Cook competition is one of many ways his legacy continues to positively impact Merced County.

Since its founding 25 years ago, Concerned Men Cook has expanded to consist of five avenues in the competition, all of which are aligned with local men from throughout the community. It is now held on every fourth Sunday of April at the Merced Civic Center and continues to be a successful fundraiser for local scholarship funds.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Concerned Men Cook. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor them as they celebrate their 25th year. I wish them the best as they continue to bring together members of the community to raise money for our students.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEVIN THIEL  
ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT  
TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES  
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

## HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Devin Thiel of Edgerton, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Devin's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Devin brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Edgerton High School in Edgerton, Ohio, Devin was a member of the National Honor Society, Scholar Athlete Award recipient, and All-A Honor Roll, while ranking second in his class.

Throughout high school, Devin was involved with wrestling, cross country, football and track among other extracurricular activities. I am confident that Devin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Devin Thiel on his offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Devin will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my

colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF ALFONSO MATANANE  
PANGELINAN

## HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Alfonso Matanane Pangelinan. Alfonso was a proud son of Guam and faithful public servant who served honorably in the United States Army. Alfonso was born on October 22, 1927 and passed away on April 17, 2019 at the age of 91.

His legacy is highlighted through the various positions he held in public office. Alfonso served as Assistant Commissioner of the village of Sinajana from 1965 to 1967 and then as Commissioner of the Village from 1968 to 1973. Alfonso was a member of the Sinajana Civic Improvement Club in the 1960s and later served as Director of the Passport Office from 1983 to 1986.

After his retirement from public office, Alfonso remained active in the community. He was an early advocate for the return of Chamorro lands and federal excess lands to their original landowners. He remained a devoted son, father, and grandfather, passing down knowledge and traditions to the generations after him. He was the son of Vicente Santos and Ana Matanane Pangelinan of Machanao and Ritudian.

Alfonso was fondly known to play the bass guitar with other notable Guam musicians, playing at weddings, fiestas, and family gatherings across the island. He had since shared his talent and love of music by teaching several of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren the art of playing the instrument.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Alfonso Matanane Pangelinan. I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and the legacy he leaves behind. He was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in his village of Sinajana and the broader island community during and after his time in office. My prayers are with his family, loved ones, and friends as they remember their lives with Alfonso and the memories they individually shared.

I extend my condolences to his children, Evangeline P. Flores, Janet P. Leon Guerrero, Michael C. Pangelinan, Donald C. Pangelinan, and Rosalyn P. Ochoco, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be deeply missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF SUZANNE GIRARD BURNETTE

## HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the retirement of Suzanne Girard Burnette.

Suzanne is retiring as the Executive Director of the Lee-Russell Council of Governments on May 1st after nearly 25 years with the organization.

Suzanne grew up in West, Texas before moving to Mayfield, Kentucky for her father's new job. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky and her Master's in Public Affairs/Administration from Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky. She has over 30 years of experience in community and economic development in both the public and private sector.

In 1984, she wrote the State of Alabama's "Community Development Block Grant Program Management and Implementation Manual." Suzanne serves on various boards and committees including the Auburn Lions Club, the Alabama Association of Regional Councils, the National Association of Development Organizations Board, the Southeast Regional Director's Institute, Lee County Habitat for Humanity Board, Auburn and Opelika Chambers of Commerce, Alabama Council on Human Relations and others.

Suzanne is married to Wayne Burnette and lives in Auburn, Alabama. Suzanne and Wayne have two children, April and Miranda.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the retirement of Suzanne Girard Burnette.

**RECOGNIZING BARBARA BOYD'S SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Barbara Boyd on her 90th birthday.

Barbara is a living legend in the Indianapolis community, and this milestone birthday is the perfect opportunity to recognize her distinguished career in journalism. A true trailblazer in the Indianapolis media market, Barbara was the first African-American female to report and anchor television news in our city. Her impressive career lasted twenty-five years at Channel 6 news, earning her a spot in both the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame and the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

She is famously known for a groundbreaking piece highlighting her own struggle with breast cancer in which she addressed the television audience from a hospital bed after undergoing a mastectomy. Barbara was a strong advocate in the fight against breast cancer. Her brave decision to share her personal journey helped educate many people about the disease and inspired people to seek medical care.

Beyond her work in communications, Barbara has long been involved with numerous community and civic groups, including the March of Dimes, the United Negro College Fund, NAACP, and a host of other organizations that helped her leave an indelible mark on our city.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Barbara Boyd a happy 90th birthday and thanking her for her years of dedi-

cated service. Her work has informed and inspired countless individuals in our community, and her legacy serves as an inspiration to many. She will be treasured for generations to come.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MAXWELL RUTLEDGE ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY**

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Maxwell Rutledge of Findlay, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Maxwell's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Maxwell brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Saint Francis de Sales High School in Toledo, Ohio, Maxwell excelled in several AP courses.

Throughout high school, Maxwell was involved with the varsity swim team. I am confident that Maxwell will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maxwell Rutledge on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Maxwell will excel during his career at West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

**FORCED RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS IN SINDH, PAKISTAN**

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Sindh and Chairman of the Asia Subcommittee in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have repeatedly drawn attention to the issue of forced conversions and other human rights abuses in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Today, I reiterate my concerns about the forced conversions of young Sindhi Hindu girls.

On April 29, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom released its annual report on the world's most egregious violators of religious freedom. The report noted that religious freedom in Pakistan con-

tinued to decline in 2018. The Commission also reported that "Forced conversions of non-Muslims continued despite the passage of the Hindu Marriage Act, which recognizes Hindu family law."

While the numbers are unclear, estimates suggest that each year, several hundred or more girls and young women are abducted, forcibly married, and converted to Islam. There were at least 1,000 cases of forced conversions of Hindu and Christian girls just in Sindh Province in 2018, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The actual number is estimated to be much larger as most cases go unreported.

Pakistan's Human Rights Commission also notes that the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2013, intended to address the issue, has not been enforced effectively. The state's response to forced marriages has been mixed, especially because the police are insensitive and indifferent in most cases. When families report their daughters as missing, this is ignored by the police. Therefore, the abducted girls remain with their abductors, where they are often coerced into silence.

The role of some religious leaders adds to the problem. Mian Mitho, a religious leader and politician, has participated in numerous conversions of young Sindhi girls. He has close connections with the army and the Prime Minister, and this has allowed him to continue his activities.

I urge Pakistan's government to more effectively address the issue of forced abductions, forced marriages, and forced religious conversions in the Sindh province.

**CELEBRATING THE AJC CINCINNATI'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the American Jewish Committee of Cincinnati's 75th anniversary on May 2nd.

For three-quarters of a century, the AJC Cincinnati has been a major support system for the Greater Cincinnati Jewish Community and worked to create lasting relationships with people of other faiths, races, and denominations.

I thank the AJC Cincinnati's leadership and members for making a positive interfaith impact on the Cincinnati community.

Congratulations to the AJC Cincinnati on this noteworthy anniversary.

**IN RECOGNITION OF JAKE STRUCKER ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY**

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that