

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christopher Diaz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christopher Diaz is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christopher Diaz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christopher Diaz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SGM KEVIN MILLER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I recognize SGM Kevin Miller, of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication and service to our Nation. SGM Miller is retiring after over 30 outstanding years of service.

SGM Miller answered the call to serve our great Nation in March of 1990 as a Non-communications Interceptor and Analyst. SGM Miller has had an impressive career and has held every leadership position from team leader to Command Sergeant Major. His service took him all over the world, including assignments to Germany, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Baghdad. His service earned him numerous accolades, such as the Military Intelligence Corps' Knowlton Award, the National Military Intelligence Association's Academic Excellence Award, and the Bronze Star Medal.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of SGM Miller. I hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL NENG VANG

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant

Colonel Neng Vang, a true American hero and inspiration to many throughout North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Lt.Col. Vang was born on January 5, 1942 in Phuv Luam, Xieng Khouang Province, Laos. After graduating from Nai Leoui Dong Heng Military Academy in 1963, he felt compelled to defend his country from the rising threat of communist forces.

Lt.Col. Vang proved to be instrumental in many American operations throughout the region and assisted the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in rescuing fallen American pilots, securing U.S. radar stations, and preventing Northern Vietnamese assets from reaching South Vietnam. He served alongside the United States at great personal risk until the fall of Laos on May 15, 1975.

Following the war, Lt.Col. Vang led a refugee camp in Thailand where he established post offices, implemented a system of law and justice, and provided valuable vocational training to fellow refugees.

Lt.Col. Vang fled with his family to the United States on December 24, 1982 and later settled in Troy, North Carolina. He became an American citizen on April 2, 1993 and dedicated the remainder of his life to the preservation of Hmong heritage and tradition.

I am honored to join our community today in remembering his remarkable life and service.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel Neng Vang.

HONORING ANA POTTRATZ ACOSTA

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ana Pottratz Acosta, a tireless attorney, advocate, and organizer, as she receives the International Institute of Minnesota's Olga Zoltai Award. I cannot imagine a better person to be recognized with this award.

Ms. Pottratz Acosta wears many hats in the Twin Cities—a clinical instructor at Mitchell-Hamline School of Law, vice chair of the regional American Immigration Lawyers Association chapter, a pro-bono mentor at the Advocates for Human rights, and more. She's also at the forefront of community response to major immigration policy changes, such as the Central American Minors refugee program and the recent Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act. Connecting these threads is a deep passion for immigration justice—a commitment that our openness and acceptance of immigrants and refugees is a non-negotiable principle of our country. Ms. Pottratz Acosta has approached this work not as a savior—but rather a partner in our common fight for liberation.

To me, Ms. Pottratz Acosta represents the best parts of America: someone who is using

all the tools at her disposal to fight for a world that is more filled with love, more connected, and more beautiful. When I see Ms. Pottratz Acosta, I also see in her face the faces of all the immigrants she has helped start a better life in our community. Because of her, I know that our future is brighter.

I thank Ms. Pottratz Acosta for her service to our community. It is an honor to get to work alongside her for justice for all of our neighbors.

BREANN GONZALES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Breann Gonzales for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Breann Gonzales is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Breann Gonzales is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Breann Gonzales for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO ESTHER BAUM—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Esther Baum of West Hollywood, California.

Esther was born and raised in Los Angeles and has called West Hollywood home for the past thirty years. Upon graduating from high school, Ms. Baum attended college and majored in accounting. With an abundance of talent and skill, Esther had a successful career spanning across decades. She worked for public accounting firms, and as an accountant for several businesses including a garment

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

manufacturer, women's sportswear shop, a beauty salon chain and an oral surgery practice. She retired in 2017.

While Ms. Baum had a successful career, she never lost sight of the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community. Esther volunteered at a cancer center in Santa Monica, California where she reconstructed the files and payroll records after the building caught on fire. She also volunteered at Project Angel Food, The Maple Counseling Center in Beverly Hills, and AARP, where she did tax preparation for senior citizens.

At ninety-four years old, Esther continues to be a dynamic force in the community. She is currently serving on the City of West Hollywood Senior Advisory Board and is active in the West Hollywood Seniors in Action program, where she plans programs for senior citizens to come together, make friends and share memories. In addition, Esther is a Neighborhood Watch block captain in her area and enjoys hosting National Night Out gatherings in her neighborhood, which she has done for the past twenty-nine years. She has made it a tradition to take all the remaining food to serve to the homeless. Esther is also a longtime and valued member of Congregation Kol Ami.

Esther and her late husband, Robert, have one daughter who followed in Esther's footsteps and is an accountant.

The entire community has benefitted immensely from the generosity and invaluable contributions of Ms. Baum.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Esther Baum.

CELEBRATING CHARLY SKAGGS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I celebrate the extraordinary work and legacy of Charly Skaggs, who has led a life of continual service to the state of Texas. His leadership, vision, and commitment to hard work has made a difference to countless lives within Williamson County.

Charly's three-plus decades of public service have helped grow the juvenile services department in Williamson County into the program it is today. Knowing the hardships of being a small department with limited resources, Charly devoted his leadership abilities to staying on the cutting edge of programs and brought a state-of-the-art juvenile service department to his beloved community. His efforts speak to the dedication of an innovator unafraid to embrace the challenges of today in order to make a better tomorrow.

Throughout his life, Charly has unselfishly devoted countless hours to help others with teambuilding workshops and to volunteer efforts that serve the youth in his community. As Como Santa, he's beloved by children of all ages as he works to support the military community of Central Texas during the holiday season. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities in service of his nation is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity of a true and devoted leader.

Many go through life wondering if they've made a difference; Charly Skaggs doesn't have that problem. He's led Williamson County to new heights and has helped lead many individuals into a brighter future. I salute his work, congratulate him on his achievements, and wish him nothing but the best for his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING GEORGE J. LEDERER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to mark a tremendous milestone for one of my constituents, George J. Lederer, who is celebrating his 100th birthday on March 21, 2020.

George J. Lederer was born on March 21, 1920, in Vienna, Austria, to Felix and Helene Lederer. At the age of 18, he left Vienna and went, via Zurich, Switzerland, to England. He lived in Leicester until May 10, 1940, when, as a refugee, he was interned under General Orders in Edinburgh, Scotland. Transferred to a larger camp near Huyton, George was detained for approximately 8 weeks. He was subsequently transported to Australia on July 10, where he remained in internment camps for nearly two years. After his return to the United Kingdom, in September 1942, George lived in Leicester and London, employed by an Indian railway company, until his U.S. Immigration visa was ready.

In July 1942, he left England and was landed, unexpectedly, in Halifax, Canada, from where he finally entered the United States of America in Van Buren, Maine on July 30, 1943. Rejoining his family in New York City, George eventually enrolled in the College of the City of New York, and graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1951. George later earned the designation of "Professional Engineer".

After various positions in engineering design and construction work, he formed his own firm, George J. Lederer Construction Service Inc. in Scarsdale, NY, which engaged in military and civilian work. He retired in 2002. George plans to celebrate his birthday among his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize George J. Lederer on this special occasion. I wish George a happy birthday, and many more happy and healthy years to come.

ASHLEY KUCLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ashley Kucler for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ashley Kucler is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ashley Kucler is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ashley Kucler for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE BOGAARD— 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Claire Bogaard of Pasadena, California.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Claire Whalen attended the University of San Diego, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in History. She and her husband, Bill Bogaard married in 1961, lived overseas and in various cities in the United States before moving to Pasadena in 1970.

Claire has made her mark in the community through her stellar leadership in the historic preservation arena. She is a Founding Member of Pasadena Heritage, which was established in 1976 and incorporated in 1977 by citizens who were concerned about the demolition of historic structures in Pasadena. Now one of the largest preservation groups in California, its mission is to identify, preserve and protect the architectural, historic and cultural resources of Pasadena through education and advocacy, and is best known for the preservation and rehabilitation of Old Pasadena, the once-derelict but now commercially successful original downtown, and the 1912 Colorado Street Bridge. Executive Director from 1981 to 1993, Ms. Bogaard assisted with the creation of urban design guidelines and design plans for historic residential neighborhoods and commercial districts, obtaining historic preservation easements and the nomination of buildings to the National Register of Historic Places.

Some of the many organizations and committees Claire has served on include as an Advisor and Trustee for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the California State Historical Resources Commission, Advisory Committee for the Restoration of Pasadena City Hall, St. Andrew Catholic Church Restoration Committee, Pasadena Planning Commission, Neighborhood Associations' Board of Directors, and Chair of the No 710 Action Committee. Ms. Bogaard also chaired the effort to clean up and develop a Master Plan for Central Park and the highly successful restoration of the "New Deal" era mural at McKinley School in Pasadena. In addition, Claire was a PTA President, a member of the Junior League of Pasadena and served on the Board