

many local organizations, including being named the 2018 Farmington Women's Club Woman of the Year.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Kathy for her decades of service to our community. I congratulate her again on her incredible career and this well-deserved honor, and I thank her for all that she has done to make our state such a wonderful place to learn, live, and grow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2020, I missed Roll Call votes 91 and 92. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on both measures.

TRIBUTE TO MARY O'KEEFE—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, Mary O'Keefe of La Crescenta, California.

Mary O'Keefe is an esteemed community volunteer and reporter for the Crescenta Valley Weekly, and her contributions, both personal and professional, have positively impacted the lives of many people in the greater La Crescenta community.

A consummate volunteer, Ms. O'Keefe's contributions to her community date back to being a Girl Scouts troop leader when her daughters were young. As an enthusiastic Parent Teacher Association (PTA) member and room mom, she quickly became known as a sought-after volunteer for whatever events and activities the PTA was planning. When her son was attending high school, Mary became a vital member of Prom Plus, a non-profit organization which holds a supervised after-prom event for Crescenta Valley High School seniors as well as their guests. When her daughter voiced interest in establishing a youth arm, Prom Plus Club, she became the club's mentor and oversaw hundreds of students as they implemented volunteer tasks in the community and helped create the scholarship program for members of the Prom Plus Club. Ms. O'Keefe remains active in both Prom Plus and Prom Plus Club to this day.

Mary founded the Fire House Youth Center in La Crescenta, which welcomes youth to congregate and spend time with each other in a safe place. Under Ms. O'Keefe's mentorship,

youth are encouraged to establish their own programs such as Girl Empowerment Day, career night and college information night. In 2016, youth skateboarders from the Fire House worked with Los Angeles County and designed their own skate park at Crescenta Valley Park.

In addition, Mary also serves on the Crescenta Valley Prayer Breakfast Committee and Crescenta Valley Fire Safe Council Board, and helped create the local community newspaper, the Crescenta Valley Weekly, where she oversees a staff of reporters who write for the newspaper, while being a main contributing writer herself on in-depth stories.

A devoted wife and mother, Mary and her husband Mark have three children: Charly, Molly and Jessy.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, last Thursday, I missed the vote series in order to travel back to WA with the state delegation and VP PENCE to visit the WA State Emergency Operations Center for the coronavirus response.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 87; YEA on Roll Call No. 88; YEA on Roll Call No. 89; and NAY on Roll Call No. 90.

CHRISTOPHER LUCIANO

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 Luciano for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christopher Luciano is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christopher Luciano 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 Luciano for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on March 9, I was unable to be present and missed the following votes due to my attendance at the Transportation Trades Department Executive Committee Meeting on official duties. If present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 91, and YEA on Roll Call No. 92.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURAL HEALTH LAW WEEK

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inaugural "Health Law Week," a week-long series of events celebrating the health law profession by highlighting programs that create new opportunities for entry into the profession, showcasing organizations and firms dedicated to employing these professionals and elevating this community's contributions to the health care industry.

Sponsored by the American Health Law Association, Health Law Week will take place this year from April 27 through May 1, with receptions hosted in Los Angeles, California, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, St. Louis, Missouri, and, of course, Washington, D.C., where the American Health Law Association has resided for over 50 years. Additional community events will also take place across the nation in celebration of the health law professional.

With the landscape continuing to shift around delivery of care in the United States healthcare system, health law professionals are at the center, providing analysis, assessing risk, ensuring compliance and making recommendations to organizations and clients to protect them from liability. They are a stabilizing force within the industry, and we should celebrate and champion these professionals.

Health Law Week not only serves to celebrate the health law profession, but it also recognizes the rich history of health care delivery in our nation. In 1965, Medicare was enacted as Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, providing federally funded and administered health insurance coverage for the elderly through Part A and Part B of the Act. Medicaid was enacted at the same time as Title XIX of the Social Security Act, creating a voluntary federal-state program of medical assistance to the indigent and so began the need for health law professionals.

Today, the American Health Law Association helps educate and connect over 60,000 health law professionals across the country, with over 6,000 of them residing here in the District of Columbia metropolitan area.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representative to join me in recognizing Health Law Week and acknowledge the impact and contributions of the health law profession on the nation's healthcare system.

TRIBUTE TO SUSANA REYES—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, Susana Reyes of Glendale, California.

Susana graduated magna cum laude from Saint Paul College with a degree in Communications. She earned a Civic Engagement Leadership and Management certification from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Anderson School of Management and a Government Purchasing and Contract Administration credential from George Washington University.

Susana Reyes has dedicated her life to working on issues that impact the environment, both in her personal life and professional career. As a Sierra Club leader and activist, she is an advocate for the greater Los Angeles community in environmental justice issues. Ms. Reyes supported the successful battle against a large residential development in the Verdugo Mountains of Glendale and helped pause the Glendale gas plant expansion in favor of exploring clean energy alternatives. She was the Political Chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, a member of their National Political Team, and served on the Sierra Club's Political Action Committee. Susana was an elected member of the Sierra Club National Board of Directors where she served as Vice President, was elected to the Board's Executive Committee and currently is the national volunteer co-lead for the Clean Transportation for All campaign. In addition to her service with the Sierra Club, in 2019, she was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) making her the first Filipino-American LADWP Commissioner.

Ms. Reyes is the founder and CEO of AgilEngines LLC, a consulting and advocacy firm with a focus on civic engagement strategies and community outreach. Prior to this, she was a Senior Sustainability Analyst at the Los Angeles Mayor's office, where she played an essential role in launching the first Sustainable City Plan and was responsible for securing a \$1.7 million grant from the California Air Resources Board for the first-ever electric car share program specifically designated for low-income communities. Previous positions also include serving as Manager of the City of Los Angeles Facilities Recycling Program and Human Resources Director at the LADWP.

For her outstanding accomplishments, Susana has received the City of Los Angeles Career Service Award, the Sierra Club Political Service Award, the Sierra Club Phil Bernays Award, the Rotary Club Bay Area Women Leaders Award, and the Women in Business Environmental Leader Award.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of Califor-

nia's 28th Congressional District, Susana Reyes.

YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Youth, Peace, and Security Act, the first comprehensive legislation that would prioritize the inclusion of youth in conflict resolution.

There are more than 1.8 billion youth in the world. Whether here in the U.S. or abroad, youth populations have long been at the forefront of building peace in their communities by creating youth-led movements, organizations, and networks to mitigate negative effects of conflict and to prevent recurring cycles of violence. Inclusive peace processes are proven to more holistically address the root causes of violence and lead to more sustainable peace.

Not only is it important to include youth in conflict resolution for the sake of inclusivity, it has also been proven to lead to more sustainable peace. For example, Somali Youth Learners Initiative ("SYLI") was created to improve Somali youths' access to education and to promote civic engagement. After learning leadership and nonviolent conflict resolution skills through the program, the students were able to implement their own youth-led community projects and communicate effectively with politicians about policies that impact youth. Youth who gained access to improved secondary school and civic engagement opportunities through SYLI and the community projects were 65 percent less likely to demonstrate moral or material support for political violence.

My bill will codify the roles of a Youth Coordinator at USAID and Youth Points of Contact in relevant bureaus; integrate youth consultation into program design; and provide financial and technical assistance to youth-led initiatives in pursuit of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The Youth, Peace, and Security Act is a once-in-a-generation shift in U.S. foreign policy that would bring youth voices to the table in conflicts around the world. In countries facing conflict, it will be the young people who will bear the burden of sustaining peace over generations, leading their society from reconciliation to prosperity.

I am thrilled to be joined in leading this bill by my colleagues, Representatives SUSAN BROOKS, DEAN PHILLIPS, and JOHN CURTIS, and am grateful to our other colleagues who have supported this introduction. My bill is also endorsed by over 35 non-governmental organizations. I urge the House of Representatives to join me in passing this important legislation.

CHRISTIAN MAERZ

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 Christian

Maerz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christian Maerz is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Maerz 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 Christian Maerz 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 HOWARD BLACKBURN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Howard Blackburn of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina for his recent induction into the Wilkes County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Howard Blackburn epitomized a life of excellence and service. He served in the military during World War Two and the Korean war. Howard Blackburn influenced thousands of lives through his leadership in education and agriculture. Through his work at Wilkes Community College, where he served as director of the life sciences program, Mr. Blackburn helped thousands of students develop farming skills.

Howard Blackburn is perhaps best known throughout Wilkes County for his contributions to beekeeping. He helped found the Beekeepers of Wilkes, and personally served as an instructor and mentor for decades. He helped many, many other people understand the importance of bees to our lives. He always maintained the highest standards of meticulous conduct and expected others to strive to the same level of excellence. Howard Blackburn is a shining example of service that we should all seek to emulate.

SALUTING THE EXTRAORDINARY CAREER OF MIKE STANFORD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I salute the extraordinary career of Mike Stanford as he retires from a lifetime of civic involvement. Mike devoted nearly four decades of incredible service to communities throughout the State of Texas through his career in the television industry. With his "what can I do to help?" spirit and high-minded vision, he's made Central Texas a model for child-focused community outreach.

A pillar of the Texas community, Mike has devoted years of selfless service to help those