

FULTON JACKSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

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

Fulton Jackson is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Fulton Jackson 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 Fulton Jackson 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES “JIM” MCGRATH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life of James “Jim” McGrath, a longtime District of Columbia resident and our city’s leading activist for tenants’ rights, on the occasion of his death on March 3, 2020.

Jim McGrath, born in Boston, Massachusetts on September 1, 1937, came to the District after serving in the U.S. Army. He studied literature at American University and received a master’s degree in literature at Georgetown University. Jim worked full time as he pursued his education. He worked and volunteered for the American Cancer Society, he was a research assistant for a D.C. law firm and a paralegal for a telecommunications firm in D.C.

These experiences led him to the House of Representatives, where he worked for former Speaker of the House John W. McCormack of Massachusetts. Jim worked as a clerk for the House Committee on the Judiciary and later became a leading expert on federal pay issues as an employee of the Library of Congress.

As a D.C. resident who lived in Dupont Circle for 45 years, Jim became well acquainted with the challenges and abuse D.C. tenants face. He established the D.C. Tenants Advocacy Coalition (TENAC) in 1992 and became the lead advocate for tenants for rent control in the District. His advocacy for tenants’ rights brought him before the D.C. Council, and his expertise led to legislation such as the creation of the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA), the confirmation of the Chief Tenant Advocate and the Tenants’ Right To Organize Act. Jim’s leadership will be especially missed today, when the high cost of housing is perhaps the most important issue facing our city.

With the passing of Jim McGrath this month, the District has lost a friend—and so have I. Jim McGrath devoted his life to the tenants of this city and became the face and soul of tenants’ rights. Jim was the acknowledged leader of citizen efforts to protect tenants in this highcost city.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring James “Jim” McGrath, my friend and a leader in our city, for his life of service. I extend my deepest condolences to Jim’s family.

LT. COL. JAMES “JAY” VALLARIO

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel James “Jay” Vallario following nearly 25 years of dedicated service as a United States Marine. Jay was born in San Francisco, California in 1976. He is a graduate of Commodore Sloat Elementary School, Aptos Middle School, and Saint Ignatius College Preparatory. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from the University of San Diego. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in September of 1995, and served as a Rifleman and a M1A1 tank crewman. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in April 1999, and then began active service.

A career AV-8B Harrier attack pilot, Jay completed two operational tours with Marine Attack Squadron 311 and one with Marine Attack Squadron 211. He served in all departments within a Marine Attack Squadron including assignments as the Aviation Safety Officer, Airframes Officer, Weapons and Tactics Instructor, Operations Officer, and Executive Officer. He completed two deployments with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, one deployment with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and one deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. While serving as the Air Combat Element Executive Officer and AV-8B Detachment Officer in Charge of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Jay conducted combat sorties from the USS Makin Island in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Enduring Freedom.

Jay’s other duties included assignment to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, with whom he served as a Forward Air Controller in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron Yuma Officer in Charge; and, assignment to the 55th Fighter Squadron, with whom he served as a Marine Exchange F-16CJ Pilot. During his United States Air Force exchange tour Jay deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy, and conducted combat sorties into Libya in support of Operation Unified Protector. From April 2015 to February 2016, Jay served on the staff of the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Aviation. Jay commanded the AV-8B Fleet Replacement Squadron, VMAT-203, from June 2016 to January 2018. While in command, he was responsible for initial and refresher training of Marine Corps Harrier attack pilots.

Upon relinquishing command, Jay assumed the billet of Marine Aircraft Group 14 Executive Officer, where he served until July 2018. From July 2018, until his retirement on 1 April

2020, Jay was assigned to the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs where he served as a liaison to Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, and managed the Navy’s Expeditionary Warfare, Air Warfare, Military Sealift, and F-35 acquisition portfolios.

Upon his retirement from active service in the United States Marine Corps, Jay will begin work as a Professional Staff Member on the House Armed Services Committee, where he will manage the readiness portfolios of the United States Air Force and United States Space Force.

Jay is married to Adrianna, from Denton, Texas. They have two children—Maia (6), and Evan (4)—and reside in Alexandria, Virginia.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating Lieutenant Colonel Vallario and his family for his service to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Thursday, March 5th, due to full-time military duties with the South Carolina Air National Guard. 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CREATIVE IMAGE BEAUTY SALON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Creative Image Beauty Salon in Dearborn. Its years of dedicated service to our community are worthy of commendation.

Creative Image Beauty Salon has served Dearborn residents since 1997. The salon offers a variety of services designed to meet the individual needs of each customer, and they provide exceptional service thanks to the staffs many years of experience. The owner of Creative Image Beauty Salon, Haitham Mehanna, is a dedicated business owner with a commitment to satisfying his customers and enriching the Dearborn community. Mehanna is recognized among his family, peers, and clients as an honest and generous man who is eager to always lend a helping hand to local causes, working tirelessly to improve the community. Thanks to his leadership and the highclass work of his staff, Creative Image Beauty Salon has become an integral part of Dearborn, as it has united the city and consistently provides quality services to all its clients.

Today, we celebrate Creative Image Beauty Salon for its continued commitment to the Dearborn community. The salon’s dedication to caring for every person who walks through the door is truly remarkable and serves a model that other businesses should endeavor to match. Each staff member goes above and beyond, striving to provide the best services possible. Without a doubt, the Creative Image

Beauty Salon will remain an economic and social asset to the city of Dearborn for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Creative Image Beauty Salon. We are grateful for the salon's positive impact on our community and wish it continued success in the years ahead.

DINAH JAHNS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

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

Dinah Jahns is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dinah Jahns 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 Dinah Jahns 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.

HONORING GRETA JOHANSSON,
SBA DISTRICT DIRECTOR, NEW
HAMPSHIRE

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greta Johansson for her service as the Director of the New Hampshire office of the United States Small Business Administration (SBA).

Greta retires after 38 years of dedicated service to our nation's small businesses. Throughout her career, she has distinguished herself as a true leader in small business development and finance in the Granite State. Greta started her career with the SBA's Disaster Assistance office providing critical support to businesses that experienced natural disasters. She subsequently went on to serve in a key role in the Connecticut District Office as Deputy District Director for more than 14 years. Since 2011, Greta has led the New Hampshire District Office of the SBA. In her current role she has led the office's delivery of SBA programs and services throughout New Hampshire, working with lenders, resources partners, and economic development entities to foster entrepreneurship and business growth. Greta has distinguished herself as true leader in the Granite State business community and the positive impact she made will be seen for many years to come.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I com-

mend Greta Johansson for her service in supporting the Granite State's small business and entrepreneurs. I look forward to our continued work together to support the small business community.

TRIBUTE TO TAMI KAGAN-
ABRAMS—28TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 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, Tami Kagan-Abrams of the Hollywood Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. Ms. Kagan-Abrams is a loving wife and mother, with a passion for volunteering and philanthropy, and has devoted her time to organizations and programs that benefit children and women.

Tami spent 10 years working in program management at Yahoo. She served on the board of directors for the Yahoo Employee Foundation, an employee-led and funded organization that grants funds to non-profit initiatives championed by the employee donors. Through the foundation, Tami successfully advocated for grants for JFS { Hope, one of only a few domestic violence shelters to house entire families and teenage boys, and The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, a non-profit organization that donates musical instruments to under-funded music programs and offers support services to school districts across the nation. Ms. Kagan-Abrams also spent 6 years with The Walt Disney Company, where she participated with the Disney VoluntEARS program, mentoring Army veterans transitioning back into civilian life and bringing her team to volunteer for JFS { Sova, a Community Food and Resource Program which provides supportive services and free groceries to over 9,000 people.

A decade ago, Tami began volunteering with the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFS) Young Leader Group, and after leading the Young Leaders for an annual term, she joined the JFS board of directors. As a board member, she assists with fundraising, provides direction and support through different committees, and is currently serving as the Public Policy committee chair. In addition to her efforts with the JFS, Ms. Kagan-Abrams chairs the Discretionary Funds Task Force for Los Angeles City Council District 4 and serves on the volunteer steering committee as the Projects Director for Abundant Housing Los Angeles.

Ms. Kagan-Abrams received her bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of California, Los Angeles, followed by her Master's in Communication Management from the University of Southern California. Tami lives in the Hollywood Hills with her husband and daughter.

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

RECOGNIZING GHANAIAN
AMERICANS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Ghanaian Americans and their contributions.

The United States of America is home to hundreds of thousands of people of Ghanaian heritage—including those who were born on this soil, those whose family emigrated for economic opportunity, and those who recently traced their roots to ancestors taken from Ghana as part of the Transatlantic slave trade.

The U.S. and Ghana share a long history with Kwame Nkrumah studying in American universities and working alongside Civil Rights leaders before becoming President of the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence from colonization on March 6, 1957.

Today, the relationship between the two countries has deepened with the Year of Return and Ghana being among the top five African countries with a fast-growing immigrant population in the U.S. Last year Speaker PELOSI led a Congressional delegation to Ghana, where she called the trip "transformative," recognizing the great strides the country has made since gaining independence.

However, today more than ever, Ghanaians living in the United States worry about immigration policies as well as accessing health and economic opportunities once promised by the American dream. In 2020, when everyone should be counted by the U.S. Census, many Ghanaians will surely be undercounted and underrepresented due to viral misinformation.

Ghanaian Americans are an essential fabric in the tapestry of America from the cab driver to the medical doctor. You will find them in all parts of the country from Chicago to New York to suburban Ohio and Massachusetts. The culture is hard to ignore with sumptuous food, the iconic Kente cloth, storytelling, inventions, architecture, and music.

This is important to remember as the United States continues to encourage democracy and bolster partnerships with Ghana in recognizing the 63rd anniversary of Ghana's independence, its thriving heritage, and the long-standing positive relationship between our two countries.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today, we rise to celebrate Women's History Month and reflect on the generations of American women and their many contributions that have brought us to this place in our history.

Every March, we honor the countless contributions that women have made to this nation. Fearless leaders like the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Coretta Scott King, Dorothy Heights, Dolores Huerta, Patsy Mink and Wilma Mankiller paved the way for us. We