

RECOGNIZING MELINDA STENTOFT
OF SCOBAY

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Melinda Stentoft of Scobey for providing Eastern Montana's health care providers with personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Let me start off by saying Melinda wants everybody to know she doesn't think she deserves this recognition. She said, "I just honestly felt like it needed to be done."

That speaks volumes to the type of person Melinda is. She owns a boutique in Scobey, Montana. Once the COVID-19 outbreak forced everyone indoors and businesses, like hers, to close their doors, business really started picking up on line. In fact, her numbers doubled in the past two months.

But through all this success, she saw the harsh reality of the coronavirus and its impact on her community, state, and nation. When health care providers indicated they had an immediate need for PPE, Melinda realized there was a way she could help.

Melinda's boutique sells cloth masks to the public. She says everyone was ordering them, so she pledged to help with Eastern Montana's health care PPE shortage. For every five masks her business sold, she would donate two to health care systems like Daniels Memorial in Scobey, Roosevelt Memorial in Culbertson, and the Billings Clinic. Thanks to her efforts, hundreds of masks will be delivered to protect providers.

This unprecedented time has reminded Melinda of her childhood when, she says, people were so close, and the sense of a tight-knit community came back because of the outbreak. Instead of rushing all the time, Melinda feels people are taking more time to talk to each other, and she loves how people have found their own way to help.

Madam Speaker, for identifying the needs of her community and selflessly giving back, I recognize Melinda Stentoft of Scobey for her Spirit of Montana.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF EL NUEVO DÍA NEWS-
PAPER

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize an important anniversary in Puerto Rican journalism.

Fifty years ago, what is today the leading newspaper in Puerto Rico, El Nuevo Día, was launched under the direction of the late editor Carlos Castañeda. It was his vision and leadership that transformed one of our older regionally-oriented papers into a major islandwide publication, marking a new era in the Puerto Rico press.

During its half century of existence El Nuevo Día newspaper has been home to valued and respected reporters, commentators,

photojournalists, analysts and writers. I congratulate each one of these distinguished individuals who have helped make El Nuevo Día newspaper what it is today—from the many figures long established when the paper came into existence, to those who made their careers reporting for El Nuevo Día newspaper, to those who have moved on to other outlets, to those who are just getting started. It is their collective efforts that have kept the record of moments of joy and of pain, of achievements and challenges, of history in the making, often pioneering new ways to cover daily news, politics, economics and business, sport and cultural events. Even today, as we face this ongoing pandemic, El Nuevo Día newspaper continues to find innovative ways to bring timely news to the people of Puerto Rico and beyond.

A dynamic free press is essential to a dynamic free society and its role is vital in the process of informing the people and of maintaining accountability, especially in times of uncertainty. I wish to congratulate the Ferré Rangel family and the whole family of El Nuevo Día newspaper, past and present, on this anniversary, and extend my best wishes to continue a path of success.

RECOGNIZING AARON BAXTER

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize Aaron Baxter for his outstanding work in the ICU at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Aaron began his career in health care at UAMS in 2015 as a patient care technician after working in the energy and manufacturing sectors. While working as a patient care technician, Aaron attended nursing school and obtained his RN.

With the current pandemic, Aaron has taken on yet another role in his unit, working as both a COVID nurse and a docifier, where his role is to help colleagues make sure they are properly using and removing their protective equipment.

His previous experience working with high voltage powerlines and steel fabrication has provided him with the ability to carefully monitor and identify safety issues during this process.

Aaron's superiors say that he is a team player who stands out due to his high regard for patient care and safety.

I thank Aaron for his dedication to protecting the health of Arkansans during this time. He, and frontline workers like him, are vital to us overcoming COVID-19 as a nation.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
MARITIME DAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize May 22nd as National Maritime Day. On this occasion, we are especially

proud of Michigan's status as a maritime industry powerhouse, which we owe to the many men and women who drive commerce on our beautiful Great Lakes. According to the American Maritime Partnership, this industry provides Michigan's economy with an annual \$2.8 billion, in addition to \$703.6 million in worker income and 12,140 jobs.

Michigan's First District features more coastline than any other congressional district in the contiguous United States, and is home to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, which continues to supply our waterways with the next generation of Merchant Marine officers. We have no shortage of reasons to celebrate this day and the proud maritime traditions of the Great Lakes.

While the circumstances of today and our nation's fight against the coronavirus make it difficult for anyone to participate in festivities, National Maritime Day 2020 is celebrated in spirit by our brave essential workers who are—at this moment—navigating ships, running ports, and operating locks. And as of this month, there are now those who are building a new lock in the Soo Locks complex. This historic milestone, as well as the jobs, growth, and security that will come with the new lock's completion, are well worth celebrating on this commemorative day.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring National Maritime Day and the millions of individuals across the Great Lakes who maintain our national security by keeping our nation's economic engine running, even in these most trying times.

KAY MARTINEZ-ACOSTA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kay Martinez-Acosta, who after 30 years of teaching, is retiring. Kay's dedication to education in the Jefferson County School District and to the State of Colorado has made a significant impact on students which will last for years to come.

Kay Martinez-Acosta was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. Growing up, Kay was known for being an exceptional student and avid reader. She was committed to her chosen career path at a young age. Kay always knew she wanted to be a teacher. After she graduated from Marycrest High School in 1986, she received a scholarship and enrolled in the teacher's program at the University of Northern Colorado. She received her bachelors degree in Elementary Education in 1990 and did her student teaching with Denver Public Schools. In 1991, Kay accepted her first elementary school teaching position with Jeffco Public Schools and remained with the district throughout her career. She taught at Eiber Elementary School, Sierra Elementary School and has been currently teaching at Vanderhoof Elementary School for 24 years!

In 1992, Kay married her husband Lee Acosta and they moved to Arvada, Colorado and raised two daughters, all while maintaining her teaching career and continuing her education. In 1999, Kay received her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Development

from the University of Phoenix. In addition, she received an English Language Learner endorsement. Kay has made a difference teaching first, second and third graders, touching the lives of more than 750 school children during her notable career. She has even

taught two generations of Jeffco families. I salute Kay on her retirement from 30 years of teaching in the field of elementary education and thank her for her incredible service to our community.

Kay's contribution to the Jefferson County School District and the Jefferson County community is remarkable. I congratulate Kay on a lifetime of service and wish her all the best in retirement.