

years of dedicated service to Northwest Oregon and congratulate her on her retirement.

**HONORING JEREMY THOMAS LANIER AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE MONTH**

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2020*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, 4th generation Floridian, Jeremy Thomas Lanier has been a lifelong resident of Osceola County. For decades he has worked with his parents, Tom and Sharon Lanier, in their family antiques store located in the heart of Historic Downtown Kissimmee. Raised with a sense of civic duty, Jeremy is president of the Downtown Business Association of Kissimmee, an organization that both of his parents led at one time, and he also serves as a board member of various community organizations including Kissimmee Main Street, the Osceola County Historical Society, the Opportunity Center, and the Osceola County LGBTQA.

In 2017 Jeremy began his career in public health at the Florida Department of Health in Osceola County working primarily with HIV patients in the ASPECTS clinic. After graduating with a degree in psychology from Rollins College in Winter Park, Jeremy used his education to successfully counsel both newly diagnosed and long-term HIV survivors and assist them throughout the treatment process. In addition to his counseling position at the health department, he also began working in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program where he manages the medication regimens of over 200 Osceola County clients.

Jeremy also manages the ADAP Copay and Premium Assistance program; assisting over 50 clients with the acquisition and management of their insurance acquired through the Healthcare Marketplace. Jeremy also assists in the oversight of the PrEP program through which over 100 clients have been afforded access to pre-exposure prophylaxis. Recently he accepted the position of Public Information Officer at the FDOH-Osceola where he manages media relations, internal and public messaging and public outreach for the health department. Jeremy and his partner Christopher May live in the business district of Historic Downtown Kissimmee where they are active in community organizations and proudly support LGBTQ causes throughout Osceola County.

**HONORING CAPTAIN RAY SPRADLIN**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Ray Spradlin for his exceptional public service to the people of the city of Santa Rosa and the State of California, and to honor his retirement after 38 years as a fireman.

Captain Ray Spradlin was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended Petaluma High School

from 1977 to 1981 and graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College in 1984. Since then, he has dedicated his career to serving the community around him, often while it was at its lowest point. He rose through the ranks of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Santa Rosa Fire Department, earning the respect of those around him. As captain, he used the knowledge and expertise gained from his years of experience to both lead his colleagues in protecting members of the public and ensuring a safer working environment for the people around him. He will continue to dedicate his life to protecting fellow first responders even after his retirement through his work with Worldwide Safety Solutions.

Throughout his career, Captain Spradlin has been recognized for his hard work and commitment to fighting for the people around him. He was honored at the 2010 Sonoma County Paramedic Associate Survivors Union for providing life-saving treatment to Yessenia Cruz, who would have died if it were not for the quick actions of Captain Spradlin. This recognition is just one example of countless heroic actions taken by Captain Spradlin to protect his community. More recently, Captain Spradlin served on the front lines during the Tubbs Fire in 2017, working tirelessly for days to fight that devastating disaster.

Madam Speaker, Captain Ray Spradlin represents the type of fine citizen that we should all strive to be. His career has been dedicated to protecting both his community and his fellow first responders. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD REPAIR ACT**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2020*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Farm-to-Market Road Repair Act, legislation that will expand eligibility for the Surface Transportation Block Grant program to include rural roads that serve to transport agriculture products from farms or ranches to the marketplace.

American agricultural communities play a pivotal role in the economy within my district and across America. These farms and ranches provide the communities they serve with fresh products daily, ensuring consumers have an adequate and healthy food supply. Unfortunately, many of the roads are deteriorating.

Over 70 percent of our nation's total road mileage is in rural areas, yet, between 2009 and 2015, these roads have only seen about 37 percent of federal highway fund. As Congress debates how to move forward with a bold plan to address infrastructure, we need to ensure road-repair projects like these do not fall by the wayside as we seek to address other larger infrastructure projects. Just because a road is in a rural area does not mean the road is small or otherwise unimportant. To the contrary, I am aware of several rural road projects in my district and the surrounding region that are major connectors that would benefit from this type of funding opportunity.

My bill expands the current surface block grant program to include these roads—roads

that serve as a lifeline to the people that depend on them. We must invest in our rural infrastructure now, before it is in complete disrepair. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

**HONORING IOWA'S TEACHERS AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK**

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I am recognizing the incredible educators of Iowa's Third Congressional District as our Iowans of the Week. Their daily contributions to our children's lives have perhaps never been more evident than during the past couple of months while our nation battles the COVID-19 pandemic. As distance learning has become the new norm, parents-turned-home-educators have developed a whole new appreciation for the academic, social, and emotional support teachers provide our children.

It has been remarkable to see educators and school staff rise to the challenge of serving their students in the face of this unprecedented crisis. With little time to plan and while coping with the pandemic themselves, they transitioned lesson plans to fit the constraints of distance learning and have worked hard to find creative ways to keep students engaged. Within the Des Moines Public School district alone, teachers have now moved more than 6,300 Pre-K through 8th grade classes to an online learning platform and distributed nearly 21,000 laptop computers to students across grade levels. In districts across central and southwest Iowa, teachers have also packed countless bags of books, school supplies, games, and other supports for students and families. And at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, teachers are now hosting activities like Anime Club meetups via Google Hangouts.

Their efforts extend far beyond traditional lesson plans. Teachers were among the first to recognize and fill the void of food insecurity for many students in their school districts; for weeks now, they have stepped up to pack and serve tens of thousands of meals weekly for students who might otherwise go without. They know many students still need a wellness check, so educators have donned masks and knocked on doors to make sure students are safe and secure. And at the end of the day, teachers still find the energy to organize parades through their school districts just to put a smile on their students' faces.

Their contributions to our community don't end with their students. We even have teachers who are working around the clock to produce face shields for health care workers on their school's 3D printers.

Teachers deserve special recognition this week and every week for their willingness to go above and beyond for the benefit of our students and families. In many ways, educators are the heart of Iowa's communities. They are thoughtful caretakers and mentors of our generations to come, and it is a role they approach with purpose and compassion. While educators face various professional challenges, many see teaching as their life's calling. I am grateful for every person who has

chosen to spend their careers sparking curiosity and creativity in our children. So please allow me to express my deep appreciation and thanks to every teacher in Iowa's Third Congressional District, and to honor them as Iowans of the Week.

HONORING ROMIALD OSCAR AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Romiald Oscar is the founder of Sunshine Services Group, a financial and consulting firm serving Polk County since 2011. Romiald is an accountant and consultant at the firm, where he works directly with individuals to examine the accuracy of financial statements and review financial records for tax filing; he also documents business financial transactions and compiles the necessary information to prepare entries for the company accounts. Romiald provides short term emergency loans to the people in his community such as cash advance and payday loans. He also assists them with immigration services and processing since Polk County has a large immigrant community that includes Haitians, St. Lucians, Jamaicans, Mexicans and others. Romiald successfully sustains over 9 years in providing services to Polk County.

As a leader, Romiald always stands with his community. He would volunteer to assist and help the people with various issues and concerns. He networks, seeks resources, and spots talents as he promotes his rich and colorful Haitian culture on Haitian holidays and especially on Haitian Flag day. Romiald has served as the president of the Haitian Association of Polk County since 2018 and contributes to several educational radio stations such as Radio Kalalou, Radio Tonmtom Internationale, and Voix Communauté Haitienne to inform, educate, and advise his community throughout Polk County and beyond.

Romiald has a very strong academic background. He completed his courses in pursuit of a Doctorate of Business Administration in Finance and is currently working on his dissertation from Walden University. He holds both an MBA in Accounting and bachelor's degree in Government from Liberty University, where he took part in the Student Government Association and other social activities.

Romiald Oscar is a respected and well-known name amongst the Polk County, Florida. He is a powerful voice in the community and will continue blazing a trail for the progress of the people in professional settings.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. GEORGE FLOYD AND CALLING FOR SYSTEMIC LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. George Floyd and to call for systemic law enforcement reform and accountability in our nation.

On May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis Police officer while three other officers stood by. This was a horrific crime that demands that the perpetrators be held fully accountable by our justice system and our society. The shocking video of Mr. Floyd's murder makes us all a witness to the brutally cruel and excessive treatment that caused Mr. Floyd's death. Now that the four officers involved in this outrageous act have been taken into custody and charged, the family of Mr. Floyd and our communities deserve to see justice done.

But the tragic death of Mr. Floyd was not an isolated incident of the cruel and excessive use of force against Black Americans or other people of color in police custody. It is only the latest example of a systemic problem that has plagued every state in this nation for generations. It is the duty of police and peace officers to keep our communities safe, but protecting public safety fundamentally demands a respect for the civil rights and human rights of all residents. All too often, people of color do not get that respect from the police.

Mr. Floyd should be alive today. He was a loving father and a proud older brother who looked out for his siblings. His family describes him as a kind soul and a gentle giant. My thoughts and prayers are with his family in their time of grief.

Mr. Floyd's death was a senseless tragedy that should never have happened. What we can do now to honor his memory is to finally bring accountability to our law enforcement practices and ensure that everyone in this nation regardless of the color of their skin is treated with dignity and respect. In Congress, that means passing the Justice in Policing Act of 2020. Madam Speaker, I am proud that the House of Representatives is advancing this critical reform legislation to a vote on the floor so that every Member of Congress has the opportunity to say loud and clear—no more.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MARTIN POHL

### HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and exceptional service of Mr. Martin Pohl. Martin dedicated his career to our Central Valley almond industry and his efforts have positively benefitted communities and farmers throughout California.

Martin was known for many roles within the almond industry and will be remembered for

his strong leadership and passion for the industry and the people he served. Martin remained active with the Almond Board of California throughout his career as shown through his service on the Board's Technical and Regulatory Affairs committee, where he served as chairman. Additionally, his contributions to the industry's world-renowned food safety programs are unparalleled. His guidance and care for the almond industry and those who worked in it can be seen through his role as a mentor for the Almond Board's Leadership program since its inception. In addition to his work with the Almond Board, Martin and his original founding partners, Ham Cunningham and Cleo Barth, developed Hughson Nut Inc. in 1985. His skills in engineering and design were considered critical to the company's success and reputation as a leader in the industry.

His exemplary work was recognized in 2013 when he received the prestigious Almond Board of California's Almond Achievement Award and again in 2017 when he was recognized as the Almond Alliance's Member of the Year. Martin was a tremendous individual and had the love and respect of his peers in the community. His good nature and sincerity were infectious and many in the industry will tell you that Martin was the person they felt comfortable going to for guidance. His warmth and willingness to help everyone is an example of how Martin was a silent leader and strived to make the world a better place.

I am honored to recognize the life and exceptional service of Mr. Martin Pohl. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor Martin for his countless contributions to the almond industry and the State of California throughout his career.

HONORING KELLIE PARKIN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, as the Pride Chamber's Chief Executive Officer, Kellie is a leader of Central Florida's LGBTQ economic equality movement. An award-winning photographer and writer, as well as an insatiable learner, Kellie works tirelessly every day, using her extensive experience in business development and journalism, to make our world a better, more inclusive, and equal place for all humans; and specifically, for her rainbow tribe whom she loves dearly.

A puzzle solver, pattern reader, and team builder, Kellie has the ability to see the big picture, understand other viewpoints, and seek new ways and solutions that lead to consensus and action. She has a global perspective and an individual approach.

Some of her recent recognitions include the Business Equality Network's National Top 40 LGBTQ Leaders Under 40, Watermark's Most Remarkable People, and the inaugural Chamber Leader of the Year Award by the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Under her transformative leadership, the Pride Chamber was honored as Chamber of the Year.

Last year she spearheaded the effort that led the City of Orlando and Orange County to