

and benefits, safe working conditions, and a fair shake not only for themselves but also on behalf of their union brothers and sisters' families.

The Holben's drive to serve their community goes beyond their day-to-day duties. John and Tasha enjoy volunteering at the NALC's national food drive, which is held the second Saturday of May. Union members volunteer to pick up food and then transport it to local food pantries. Food pantries are always happy to see the influx of food in May, because often-times they see a slump in donations following winter holidays.

John additionally serves as a pastor at the Community of Christ Church in Council Bluffs, where he, Tasha, and the congregation help clean up their neighborhood every Earth Day. Instead of hosting a normal church service on the Sunday closest to Earth Day, members of the church walk around and pick up litter. They're usually able to fill up several garbage bags as they clean up yards, streets, and sidewalks.

As we celebrate Labor Day this week, I'm especially appreciative of John and Tasha, who have fought long and hard to maintain their union and ensure safe and reliable delivery of the mail to their neighbors. Through their activism and volunteer work, John and Tasha have made Council Bluffs a better place to live and work. Please join me in honoring John and Tasha as our Iowans of the Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MALINOWSKI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed one vote on Monday, September 20, 2021. On Roll Call vote No. 262, S. 189, The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021, I would have voted YEA.

CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE'S COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Wheat Ridge's COVID-19 Response Team in Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person or organization in Wheat Ridge community who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on our local community, the entire country, and the rest of the world. The City's COVID Response Team is comprised of city staff and community members, including Steve Art, Amber Garrett, Diamante Hornyack, Allison Lewis, Robin Lofton, Cindy Peterson, Allison Scheck, and Sara Spaulding. As the city dealt with an unprecedented pandemic

and some of its darkest days, these men and women came to the aid of their community to help coordinate, develop and implement an effective and timely response to the various challenges and issues that have come up throughout the pandemic.

I thank every member of the COVID-19 Response Team for their hard work, dedication and sacrifice during this trying time, and congratulations for receiving this award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN IRIARTE WHITT

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Iriarte Whitt who passed away on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

John had a decades long career in public service working as an important advisor to several of Guam's key elected leaders over the years including Gov. Ricardo Bordallo, Gov. Carl Gutierrez, Congressman Robert Underwood, and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo.

He was proud of his Chamoru heritage and was a longtime member of the Guam Society of America. He understood what it meant to be a Pacific Islander and lived his life serving others. He was a true patriot and was proud of his military service.

As a graduate of the Air Force Academy and a B-52 Pilot, John had a tactical mind, which he put to good use developing political strategies and policy not just for the benefit of the people of Guam, but also for American Samoa and the rest of the territories.

When I was first elected to Congress, John was still the Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Bordallo and was a great help to my freshman office. He was quick to volunteer his time and expertise not only with matters of policy, but with fostering a sense of camaraderie among the territorial delegation.

His passing is not just a loss for Guam, but for the Pacific region at large. He will be missed.

REMEMBERING DIPLOMAT GEORGE S. VEST

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and praise the contributions George S. Vest made to U.S. foreign policy. Vest had a long career as a U.S. diplomat during the Cold War. He died on August 24 at the age of 102.

Among Ambassador Vest's accomplishments was representing the United States while initiating the 35-country multilateral diplomatic process that led to the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in August 1975. This process continues to this day as the Organization

for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or OSCE, based largely in Vienna with 57 participating countries. History records the U.S. approach to those negotiations, a Soviet initiative, in late 1972 and 1973, as one of damage control, but Vest, his team and his successors did better than that. Working with our friends and allies in Europe, and engaging our Soviet and Warsaw Pact adversaries directly, they laid the groundwork for overcoming the East-West divide with a direct and frank dialogue based on a comprehensive definition of security that included respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. At the time, addressing human rights issues in other countries was something diplomats hoped to avoid; over time it became recognized as essential to their security and developing relations. The negotiations also produced confidence-building measures designed to lessen the risk of accidental war during a time of heightened tensions.

Although neither Vest nor most of his fellow diplomats may have foreseen its potential value, their work eventually helped bring the Cold War to a peaceful end 30 years ago, and the OSCE continues to serve as a forum for addressing tension and instability in Europe to this day.

Even in the darker days of the Cold War, this diplomatic process showed many courageous human rights advocates—private citizens—that they were not alone. It gave them the hope to keep fighting for a better world. As long as it remains true to its original Helsinki principles, it still does, and always will.

As the Co-Chairman of the United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), better known as the Helsinki Commission, I believe it is important that we recognize George Vest's early efforts. The U.S. Helsinki Commission was founded in 1976 and has since helped to ensure that the multilateral diplomatic process Vest started reflects not only U.S. interests but those of any country—indeed any person—who values freedom and democracy. As the elections just held in Russia demonstrate, work still remains.

George Vest was a combat veteran of World War II and later served in various diplomatic positions beyond those related to Helsinki, including as advisor to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the State Department's liaison to the Defense Department, spokesman for the State Department Under Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, and U.S. ambassador to the European Union. Vest ended his career at the State Department as director general of the Foreign Service, recruiting and selecting future American diplomats.

Our debt to this fine public servant, and his legacy of promoting peace over decades, is boundless. I thank his living sons, George S. Vest IV and Henry Vest, for their father's historic service to our country.

POOR BOY RODS OF WHEAT RIDGE, CO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Poor Boy Rods of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of

Wheat Ridge's Annual Business of the Year Award.

Poor Boy Rods is an example of what makes Wheat Ridge great. The team at Poor Boy Rods earned the Business of the Year award because of their outstanding performance and contribution to our community. Poor Boy Rods is known for fixing up classic cars and helping to restore them to their former glory. Preserving such classic symbols of Americana is important and will allow future generations to enjoy these vehicles just as much as the generations before us. Located in Wheat Ridge, the work done by Poor Boy Rods can be seen on roads throughout our beautiful community and state.

Congratulations to Poor Boy Rods for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

HONORING EUGENE GUTIERREZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eugene Gutierrez of Edinburg, Texas for his incredible commitment to the community of South Texas, his service for our country, and to celebrate his 100th birthday.

Mr. Gutierrez was born on September 14, 1921 and grew up in South Texas. He attended Harlingen High School and, after graduation, enlisted in the United States Army to pursue a career in engineering. However, after Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Mr. Gutierrez's military career took a quick turn.

Mr. Gutierrez began rigorous training with the First Special Service Force, an elite group of 1,800 troops from both American and Canadian armies at Fort William Henry Harrison in Montana. They were later dubbed as "the Devil's Brigade" by German opposition, in July of 1942. During his time fighting in World War II, Mr. Gutierrez was honored with numerous awards, including: two Bronze Stars, one for valor and the other for infantry combat, a Liberation of France medal, a Good Conduct medal, a World War Two Victory medal, a First Special Service Force medal, and the Congressional Gold medal.

Upon returning home from the war, Mr. Gutierrez went on to pursue a degree from Oklahoma State University and graduated in 1950. He then settled in McAllen, Texas where he served as an educator, principal, and superintendent at McAllen Independent School District for 30 years until he retired in 1980. Mr. Gutierrez continues to serve as an active member of the McAllen community through his work in the Sierra Club and as a parishioner at Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the countless achievements of Eugene Gutierrez. He dedicated his life to the betterment of his community and his legacy will no doubt inspire future generations to do the same. His military service, devotion to the community, and general love for life is admirable. I thank Mr. Gutierrez, and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT
MARTIAL ARTS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Personal Achievement Martial Arts of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Business of the Year Award.

Led by a persevering team, Personal Achievement Martial Arts was able to have an impactful year of education and training for local youth in the field of martial arts, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer a wide array of programs spanning from preschool-aged children all the way up to adulthood. Personal Achievement Martial Arts strives to make an inclusive environment for every one of their students, and pass on their skills of self-defense on to eager learners.

Congratulations to Personal Achievement Martial Arts for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

RECOGNIZING THE 234TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 234th anniversary of the United States Constitution, and to commend the Daughters of the American Revolution for their diligence in promoting this period of civic education known as Constitution Week.

The United States Constitution is more than just an outline for good governance. It is a product of the greatest minds of its time. It stands as a written testament to our values as a nation; and, while many countries around the world have a constitution that establishes and organizes their government, our Constitution is different. Its predominate purpose is to limit the power of the federal government, and it encapsulates the most sacred of American values: that our government is, and will always be, accountable to the American people.

I am reminded that our nation's formative years were not without internal strife. Much like today, our founders were at a crossroad, and many wondered what form of government our fledgling nation would take. On September 17, 1787, crowds gathered outside Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where the Constitutional Convention had convened to decide the future of the country. As the delegates left the Hall that day, someone called out from the crowd, asking what kind of government we would have. Among the men leaving the building was Benjamin Franklin, one of the most esteemed figures in our nation's founding. There, on the steps of Independence Hall, Mr. Franklin turned to face the inquiring voice and replied, "A Republic, if you can keep it."

Today we find our country again at a crossroad. We must decide whether to maintain our foundational principles, or to tread down the path of authoritarianism. We can choose to

hold fast to the values enshrined in our Constitution, or to ignore them and risk losing our Republic. I am confident that our Constitutional values and obligations will prevail in time. Through divine providence and the tireless efforts of organizations like the Daughters of the American Revolution, our obligation to the people has already survived over two centuries, and will not easily be abandoned.

On behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I earnestly commend the Daughters of the American Revolution for their efforts in preserving the legacy of our founders, and the values enshrined in our United States Constitution.

VICKIE CORDER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vickie Corder of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person or organization in Wheat Ridge who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. Vickie's bakery, Grammy's Goodies, has been a staple in Wheat Ridge for years, and has brought smiles to guests' faces for as long as they have been open. The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges for and the local bakery but Vickie continued to serve local residents, even providing meals for front-line workers during some of the worst days of the pandemic.

Congratulations to Vickie Corder of Grammy's Goodies for her contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICHARD DINGLE AMERICAN LEGION POST 98

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of the Richard Dingle American Legion Post 98 in Saint Paul Park, Minnesota. Just as it has since 1921, Post 98 welcomes veterans into its membership ranks from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Members are committed to fulfilling the Post 98 mission of implementing the goals, aspirations, dreams, peace, and blessings for their country, friends, and families.

On August 20, 1919, seventeen local veterans gathered in Saint Paul Park to apply for a temporary charter in the American Legion, the fledgling national Veteran's Service Organization which at the time was just one year old. Two years later, on July 2, 1921, Post 98 applied for a permanent charter for the Richard Dingle American Legion Post 98 in honor