

Many residents of Saint Paul would travel by lake steamer to shop in White Bear Lake, stopping through Birchwood on the way to collect passengers. The summer residents and permanent villagers relied on local farmers for much of their fresh produce and milk, as the small village was home to only one small grocery store. Many improvements came to the area in the 1950s, including water, gas and sewer service as well as blacktopped roads, a trajectory that led to an increase in permanent residents rather than summer vacationers, and which led the village to officially be designated as the City of Birchwood Village in 1974.

The historic Birchwood Village Hall was built in the early 1930's to use as a community building and for other town business, and the city council still holds all of their official meetings there today. The building, which is now the only nonresidential structure left in the town, underwent a renovation in the 1970's and 1980's that including an additional room and new siding, covering the original modernist-style design of Saint Paul architect Magnus Jemne. Then, in the spring of 2021, restoration crews discovered that the original vertical virgin-timber siding was still there in remarkable shape, and the village hall was restored to its original design, just in time for the centennial celebration this fall.

The village is led today by long-time resident Mayor Mary Wingfield, who has served in the role for over a decade and has eliminated the town of debt among many other accomplishments. With a population under 1,000, residents take great pride in their storied history and the neighborly atmosphere that has encouraged people to call Birchwood Village home for the past century and is sure to continue to do so for the next 100 years. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognition of the centennial anniversary of incorporation of Birchwood Village.

#### THORNTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Thornton Fire Department in Thornton Colorado for earning the 2021 Congressional Fire Service Institute's Masimo Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award, which is given annually to the top fire department in the country.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thornton Fire Department has gone above and beyond to serve their community. As part of their efforts, they created a Pandemic Response Team that has conducted over 20,000 COVID tests for public employees, senior citizens, first responders, and other community members. When vaccines became available, the Pandemic Response Team expanded their services to administer over 80,000 vaccinations at drive-thru sites for city employees and other members of the community. The Pandemic Response Team's success has led to other fire agencies from around the country to look to Thornton as a model for how to effectively respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a very difficult year for fire and emergency services, the Thornton Fire Depart-

ment's innovative approach to a rapidly changing public health crisis has been crucial in saving lives and protecting the broader Thornton community. I extend my deepest appreciation to the first responders of the Thornton Fire Department for their dedication and outstanding service to their community.

#### BLINKEN SHOULD RESIGN

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD my remarks from the Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on September 13, 2021.

I am grateful last Monday, September 13th, that there was a bi-partisan zoom appearance of Antony Blinken provided by Chairman GREG MEEKS and Republican Leader MIKE MCCAUL. Mr. Blinken sadly revealed he is disconnected from reality of threats to American families at home as I cited in my opening statement:

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Sir, in my service on the Foreign Affairs committee, the Global Terrorism subcommittee, the Armed Services committee, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and the Helsinki Commission, I have always been impressed by American foreign service diplomats worldwide. Their dedication to service is inspiring. That is why I am shocked at your actions superseding military advice, leading to surrender in Afghanistan to be a safehaven for murderous terrorists. Biden-Harris have opened the Southern Border, stopping the wall of President Donald Trump. This allows identified terrorists of the Terror Watch List to enter American neighborhoods as lone-wolf suicide bombers to murder as many Americans as possible. In American History, American families have never been at greater risk of attack at home than today, as the Global War on Terrorism is not over, it has moved from abroad to American homes.

As the grateful father of an Afghanistan veteran, I especially see your actions as indefensible. With 12 visits by me across Afghanistan to thank S.C. Army National Guard troops, the 218th Brigade, commanded by General Bob Livingston, I know firsthand they appreciated serving with their Afghan brothers. I saw the U.S. Agency for International Development's success in building schools, agricultural advances, hospitals, roads, and bridges.

My beliefs have been expressed by the New York Post Editorial Board on September 1st.

Sadly, the advanced military equipment left to the terrorists is comparable to all equipment provided by America to Israel since 1948, including drones that are a threat to Americans. The countries who have suffered the most Islamic extremist terrorist attacks—India, Israel, and America are endangered. They shout, Death to America, Death to Israel.

We must never forget the May 8th bombing in Kabul where Islamic extremist terrorists slaughtered over 80 innocent young girls. You should have changed course on this gruesome, revealing fact alone. The murderers of that attack now will have safehaven to target American families at home.

Your bizarre abandoning of Bagram Airfield led directly to 13 Marines murdered in Kabul. You should resign. I yield back.

IN RECOGNITION OF 80 YEARS OF  
MESSIAS TEMPLE CHURCH

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Messias Temple Church located in Ypsilanti, Michigan on the occasion of their 80th anniversary. For the past eight decades, this church has been the embodiment of faith and service. Their commitment to serving the Ypsilanti community in the past, present, and future is worthy of commendation.

Formed in 1940, a vision inspired Elder John T. Elders and Sister Laura Elders to create a sanctuary for the people of Ypsilanti. They began holding prayer meetings in a wooded area they named Messias Grove at the corner of Monroe and Hawkins and later in the home of the Barfields until they moved into their first church building on Monroe Street in 1941. Faithfulness, dedication, service, and spreading the word is what this church has focused on since their founding. Today, the vision of the Elders lives on through Bishop Harry Grayson, as he has led the Messias Temple congregation in faith and service for the past thirty years.

In the years since that first meeting, Messias Temple Church has grown tremendously, and the church is known as a place where warmth, compassion, support, and fellowship will always be found. The congregation's charitable work has sustained those in their time of need. The "We Care We Share" outreach ministry provides hot meals and clothing for those in need. Through this program they have served over ten thousand neighbors. Additionally, they host a food pantry and run programs for local youth and families. Even when faced with challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, this congregation has never faltered in their commitment to serving the people of the community and ensuring that they are taken care of. Their dedication to carrying out the teachings of their church is unparalleled.

The Messias Temple Church has positively impacted the lives of so many through their outreach and for that we are grateful. The church has been under the steadfast leadership of Bishop Harry Grayson since 1991 and has only grown since then. Their ministry reaches not only across Ypsilanti, but around the globe. Those who know the spirit of Bishop Grayson know his compassion, wisdom, and tireless devotion to our community and to the faith that drives him as a servant of God.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Messias Temple Church for their 80 years of faith and service. Please join me in congratulating Bishop Grayson and the entire Messias Temple congregation on eight faithful decades and in wishing them the best of luck in the years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed the vote on Tlaib

Amendment No. 11 to H.R. 4350. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 271—Amdt. No. 11 to H.R. 4350 on agreeing to the Tlaib amendment.

HONORING JULIE AND PETER  
BENDER

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Julie and Peter Bender, who will be recognized as the 2021 Moorestown Citizens of the Year.

Julie and Peter Bender have owned Moorestown Hardware for 20 years. Operated by these two Moorestown natives, the hardware store offers something for everyone with a wide selection of materials and tools, plus puzzles and popcorn. However, residents of Moorestown will know that their business is much more than a store—it's an extension of Julie and Peter's commitment to community service.

Throughout the year, you can find Julie and Peter working to support a wide array of community efforts that range from fundraising on behalf of scout groups and local organizations to supporting institutions such as the Moorestown Community House. Their business is routinely staffed by local high school students and is a part of a local program that hires special needs students, each of them amplifying the themes of kindness and hard work.

The Benders' support and dedication to their community have made a lasting impact on Moorestown, whether it's by donating 10 percent of their Small Business Saturday profits to local institutions or by donating a grand piano that has been used to teach thousands of children how to play.

Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." The Benders live and breathe their store and the town that supports them. Julie and Peter Bender are shining examples of service, and I commend them for receiving this award and their continued involvement in strengthening Moorestown.

TADD OVERSTREET

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tadd Overstreet of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving both the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Cultural Commission Award and Sustainability Award for his contributions through his coffee shop, Stylus and Crate.

Whether it be through public programming or the display of art, the Cultural Commission Award aims to recognize those who promote and encourage culture in the Wheat Ridge

community. Tadd has been engaged with providing the residents of Wheat Ridge with an enjoyable, cultural experience through his local coffee shop, Stylus and Crate, which seeks to provide its customers with a unique experience integrated with vinyl and art. Located at the BartaHouse in the heart of Wheat Ridge, Stylus and Crate serves up a mix of coffee, music, and art while also engaging in sustainable, environmentally friendly practices. The coffee shop uses coffee from local Denver companies and ensures their responsible sourcing practices have a positive impact on our community and our state.

Congratulations to Tadd Overstreet and Stylus and Crate Coffee Shop for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving these awards.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN J.  
WHITT

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN  
RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late John J. Whitt, who ably served as Legislative Director and then Chief of Staff to two of our former colleagues from Guam: Congressman Robert A. Underwood and Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, respectively. Sadly, John died from cancer at the age of 64 on September 16, 2021. His funeral Mass was celebrated this morning at Our Lady of the Chesapeake Catholic Church in Pasadena, Maryland, where his family and many friends gathered to memorialize his life and offer prayers of thanksgiving for his public service. I was fortunate to be among them as my husband, Fred, and I were friends with John for many years.

John was well known to the territorial Delegates and their staffs in the House as he was a strong collaborator and visionary when it came to joining forces and forging consensus—where appropriate and possible—to advance Federal policy to improve the quality of life for Americans residing in the territories and to enhance understanding in Washington about indigenous culture and the way of life in the Pacific islands.

Born on October 15, 1956, to the late Charles and Christina Whitt, John was immensely proud of his CHamoru heritage and his upbringing in Barrigada, Guam. He graduated in 1974 from Father Duenas Memorial School in Chalan Pago, Guam, and in 1978 from the United States Air Force Academy, having been nominated for appointment there by Guam's first Delegate to Congress, the late Antonio B. Won Pat. Thereafter, John served our country as a B-52 pilot. But his other love, of politics, lured him back to his home island of Guam. One of his mentors, the late Colonel Edward Diego "Eddie" Reyes, USAF, who was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor on a winning ticket with the late Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo in 1982 recruited John to work on their gubernatorial campaign. It was on the campaign trail that Governor Bordallo, and his wife, Madeleine, took notice of John's sharp

intellect and keen political instinct. Not long after being sworn into office, Governor Bordallo tapped John to be his Chief of Staff at a tender young age of 27. After Governor Bordallo's term ended, John embarked on a short career as a commercial regional jet service pilot in the Southeast United States.

When Congressman Underwood was sworn into office in 1993, he brought John on board as part of his legislative team. In the 1990s, John helped advance the Guam Commonwealth Act for consideration by the House Natural Resources Committee and the Clinton Administration and assisted with Congressman Underwood's successful efforts to return excess lands taken by the Federal government to the people of Guam. When Typhoon Paka struck Guam in 1997, John was tapped by Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez and Lieutenant Governor Madeline Z. Bordallo to help coordinate the GovGuam response with FEMA. Thereafter, John returned to Washington—this time to serve as the Governor's liaison in town. When Lieutenant Governor Madeleine Bordallo was elected as Guam's first woman Delegate to Congress in 2002, she tapped John to serve as her Chief of Staff. John served in that capacity for her first seven terms helping her advance the Guam war claims legislation toward its eventual enactment and to provide for an orderly and balanced realignment of military forces on Guam.

John was a longtime, active member of the Guam Society of America, Inc., here in Washington, D.C. He was a consistent, consoling presence whenever one of the elders in the community passed away. John loved to lift our hearts in song and was fond of joining in the choir on special occasions. He would recite the CHamoru hymns and prayers. He was a gifted speechwriter and political strategist with an appreciation for history. He loved politics, the U.S. Air Force, to fly, his home village of Barrigada, and Guam. Most of all he loved his family, especially his brothers and sisters and his numerous nephews and nieces. He is predeceased by his parents and his siblings, Albert, Edwin, Emmett, and Julie Sisson. He is survived by his sisters, Frances Lucero (Larry) and Arlene Osorio (David), and his brother Jim Whitt (Debbie), and his nephews and nieces.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to remember John for his contributions to this institution as one of its staff members and for the positive force he made for the betterment of my constituents and our fellow brothers and sisters residing in the other territories. On behalf of the people of American Samoa, I offer our condolences to his family and to our former colleagues, Congressman Underwood and Congresswoman Bordallo, on whose staff he served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, the vote closed prior to me being able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 268.