

compete for government contracts. That is why I introduced the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021, which authorizes a business mentor-protégé program within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This bill pursues two critical goals: strengthening and helping small businesses, the backbone of our economy, and bolstering DHS, which has the critical responsibility to keep Americans safe. The legislation will give a hand up to minority-, woman-, and veteran-owned small businesses, making them more competitive for DHS contracts, and therefore, more likely to be successful, offering jobs and returning dollars to their communities. This pandemic has only reinforced the significant role that small businesses play. A broader, more diverse pool of DHS contractors saves taxpayer dollars, creates a stronger economy and most critically, helps keep our country safe. The Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021 has been included in the House version of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as an amendment and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this vital piece of legislation remains in the final NDAA.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
MAYOR HARVEY C. SKOOG

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Prescott Valley Mayor Harvey C. Skoog. Harvey selflessly served his community as Prescott Valley Mayor for a total of 19 years, excluding the additional years he spent serving as a council member and vice mayor. Harvey maintained a consistent leading record in his local community through his involvement with the Arizona Society of Practicing Accountants, Arizona Association of Enrolled Agents, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, Chamber of Commerce, League of Cities and Towns, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, and Central Arizona Senior Association, to name a few. Harvey's accomplishments are widely recognized in the state as he was honored as a co-recipient of the 2015 Prescott Area Leadership Man of the Year award. He was also passionate about expanding home ownership, religious freedom, and educational opportunities for the youth.

However, Harvey's contributions reach further than his professional, service, and leadership roles. After marrying Edna in 1960, Harvey raised 9 successful children who have raised 59 grandchildren and 63 great grandchildren. Madam Speaker, I wish to offer my deepest condolences to Harvey's entire family. His contributions will never be forgotten by the state of Arizona or the people of Prescott Valley.

HONORING DR. EMILY VOLK,
PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF
AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

HON. TREY HOLLINGSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor and recognize Dr. Emily Volk, Chief Medical Officer at Baptist Health Floyd, for being sworn in as President of the College of American Pathologists this past Saturday.

Dr. Volk has dedicated over 25 years of her life to working in the health care system and serving patients. Her outstanding record of clinical practice and operational leadership led her to the position she now holds with the College of American Pathologists, and she will no doubt exude the utmost competence while holding the position.

Throughout her career, Dr. Volk has championed physician and patient advocacy. I can personally attest to Dr. Volk's passion for advocacy during our interactions both at Baptist Health Floyd and with the College of American Pathologists.

I have full confidence that Dr. Volk will carry this new title with pride and lead by exceptional example. I wish her the best of luck in this new role.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF VICKY
RUSSELL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Vicky Russell who passed away September 19 at North Mississippi Medical Center. She was 61 years old.

Vicky was born on May 20, 1960 to Raymond and Donna Gaines Yeager. She has lived all her life in Saltillo. She attended Saltillo schools and managed the B-Quick. For 13 years she worked at Hunter Sadler Mfg. before pursuing a career as a law enforcement officer. She served under Lee County Sheriff Harold Ray Presley and the Sheriff Larry Presley. 15 years ago she joined the Itawamba County Sherriff's Department. She had risen to the rank of Major and served as a Jail Administrator.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved daughter, Jessica; grandchildren, Carson, Maisy, Delaney and Dylan; mother, Donna; sister, Patty; and countless friends, colleagues, and loved ones.

I join the Saltillo community in mourning the loss of an outstanding woman and member of the law enforcement community.

HONORING 13 FALLEN SOLDIERS

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize 13 United

States service members who sacrificed their lives in defense of our country during the United States evacuation from Afghanistan. In the final days of the evacuation, the U.S. and our allies evacuated more than 120,000 people to safety—the largest airlift in our history. On Thursday, August 26, 2021, 13 heroes lost their lives in service of this mission outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring these brave individuals: Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Sergeant Nicole L. Gee, Staff Sergeant Darin T. Hoover, Corporal Hunter Lopez, Corporal Daegan W. Page, Corporal Humberto A. Sanchez, Lance Corporal David L. Espinoza, Lance Corporal Jared M. Schmitz, Lance Corporal Rylee J. McCollum, Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola, Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui, Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, and Staff Sergeant Ryan C. Knauss. We are grateful for their service.

HONORING ERIC JAY LARSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, in celebration of the life of Eric Jay Larson, who passed away at the age of 56 on August 17, 2021. Eric was a stalwart environmental scientist and advocate who worked for years with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other state agencies to conserve vital and sensitive natural habitats on the Northern California coast.

Eric was born in San Francisco on March 17, 1965. He graduated from Redwood High School and attended college in Minnesota and California. Eric worked for the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission managing and regulating sediment in the estuary. As Environmental Program Manager for the State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Eric protected and restored wetlands, riparian corridors, marine preserves, coastlines and opens spaces. He also worked to acquire wildlife green belts and managed fisheries. He was nationally recognized by Vice President Al Gore for the best managed fishery in the United States. This expertise allowed him to advise Southeast Asian governments on river and wetland restoration efforts.

Eric was a founding member of the Peace in Medicine cannabis dispensary—the first non-profit and permitted dispensary in Sebastopol. Along with his partner of 30 years, Mitcho Thompson, Eric owned a small certified medicinal herb farm in Sebastopol.

Eric was respected by many and known for his "hands on" approach to science and enjoyment for educating others. His dedication and passion has left the region, state and world with long lasting benefits and he will be sorely missed by his colleagues, friend and family. Madam Speaker, we respectfully ask that you join us in extending condolences to Eric's family and many friends and in expressing our deep appreciation for his decades of contributions to the environment.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE AT GENESEO

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State University of New York College at Geneseo on its 150th anniversary.

Founded in 1871, SUNY Geneseo is a liberal arts college located in the historic Village of Geneseo, New York. SUNY Geneseo has a rich history, and I am honored to represent it in Congress.

On September 13, 1871, the Geneseo Normal and Training School opened its doors with 71 certificate-seeking students. The following year, the first commencement was held with a graduating class of ten students. Later renamed SUNY Geneseo, today the school has more than 4,000 students, fifty undergraduate degree programs, and twenty-six interdisciplinary minors. SUNY Geneseo has grown exponentially over its 150-year history, while maintaining its strong commitment to quality education.

Despite the challenges of the past year, SUNY Geneseo has continued to deliver a high-quality education. This success is demonstrated by SUNY Geneseo's designation as a "Top Producer of U.S. Student Fulbright Awards," as well as the university's U.S. News and World Report ranking of third for "Top Public Regional Universities" in the Northern United States. Each of these designations reflect the hard work of the students and faculty at SUNY Geneseo, who have grown the school into an outstanding institution over the past 150 years.

SUNY Geneseo is known not only for its academics, but also for its history and traditions. An iconic feature of Geneseo is the Seuss Spruce found in the Sturges Quad. The tree's shape resembles a Dr. Seuss illustration, likely developing its shape from an ice storm. The Sturges Quad also holds the "Greek tree," a tree painted by students from different Greek organizations during the night. This tradition began in the 1960s, yet thousands of layers of paint later, the tree grows taller each year. Geneseo is also known for its remarkable sunsets, especially those that can be seen from the campus Gazebo overlooking the Genesee Valley.

I thank SUNY Geneseo for its commitment to preserving and promoting 150 years of education, and I again congratulate Geneseo on its 150th anniversary.

TRINIDAD "TRINI" GARZA EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Trini Garza Early College High School for becoming a 2021 National Blue Ribbon Awardee.

Trini Garza Early College High School is a public school located in the southwest quad-

rant of the Dallas Independent School District, the second largest urban school district in Texas. The school opened in 2006 and works in collaboration with Mountain View College to provide a partnership that ensures the goal of college success is attained. Garza ECHS students attend both high school and on-site college classes in order to graduate with their high school diploma and associate degree. Most of the students are the first in their family to attend college in an area where about only 10 percent of the population has a college degree.

The high school's namesake is well-known Dallas civic leader and businessman, Trinidad "Trini" Garza. Mr. Garza is known as an advocate for progress for the Hispanic community as early as 1969 when he helped organize the city's first Mexican American Leadership Conference. Mr. Garza has also been a strong advocate and supporter of education. Elected as the first Hispanic member of the board of trustees in 1969, Mr. Garza was then appointed Deputy Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Education in President Clinton's Administration. Throughout his life, Mr. Garza has served his community through involvement in numerous civic organizations. In 2010, the Early College High School at Mountain View College was named after Mr. Garza.

Every year, the U.S. Department of Education recognizes hundreds of public and private schools across the country for their commitment to educational excellence and their ability to overcome outstanding odds to properly educate their students. These schools receive the National Blue Ribbon of Distinction, an award reserved for schools that boast students who meet and maintain high educational goals. The Blue Ribbon Award celebrates the idea that all students, regardless of background, ability or location, deserve an excellent education.

The culture of Trini Garza Early College High School provides a place where students, parents, and faculty become life-long learners. There is no punishment for taking risks, no systemic anxiety about failure. Students are encouraged to advocate for their own learning, and teachers tailor student experiences based on individualized needs so that all are successful in whatever endeavor they choose.

Trini Garza Early College High School's commitment to excellence has exceeded expectations on the state accountability systems attaining ALL seven distinctions listed in Academic Achievement: Reading/Language Arts; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies; Top 25 percent Student Progress; Top 25 percent Closing Performance Gaps; and Post-secondary Readiness. The philosophy "All Children Can Learn" is ingrained in every aspect of this school. It is an honor to celebrate them for this historic achievement and their lifelong impact on the Dallas community.

PASTOR TOMMY SMITH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Tommy Smith, the Pastor of the First Church of God in Christ in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Pastor Smith has been in ministry at

the same location for over fifty years. He began his ministry as a musician for the church before progressing to a Sunday school teacher and assistant pastor. Pastor Smith is now the District Superintendent of Congregation in Sulphur Springs, Bonham, Commerce, Talco, and Mt. Pleasant areas. He is also the Chief Financial Officer of the Texas Northeast 3rd Jurisdiction of Churches of God in Christ.

In 2020, Dr. Smith received his Doctor of Theology from Newburgh Theological Institute after battling with cancer. He also attended advanced courses from the Dallas Theological Seminary. In addition, Pastor Smith worked for the Marketplace Ministries in Mt. Pleasant as a chaplain, Titus Regional Medical Center as chaplain, and Mt. Pleasant Police Department as a ride along chaplain. He continues to set excellent examples to others in ministry as a Dean of Ordination for newly licensed ministers in the Great State of Texas. Pastor Smith loves the Lord and will continue this ministry until the Lord calls; "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Pastor Smith's devotion to God, Country, and his congregation. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal commendations to Pastor Smith for all he has done in service of the 4th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING MRS. SALLY TANNER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor Mrs. Sally Tanner in celebration of her extraordinary life and commitment to serving her community.

Marcella "Sally" Tanner was born in East Chicago, Indiana, the youngest of eight children born to Anton and Mary Zinski. She spent her childhood in Indiana, where she became politically engaged and active in her community. It was during this time that she planned her first political demonstration. After Sally graduated high school, she moved with her parents to Southern California, where she attended Pasadena Community College and the Art Center School of Design in Los Angeles. Shortly after finishing school, World War II began, and Sally decided to become a riveter to serve her country. After the war, Sally had her two sons, Christopher and Timothy, and began working as an administrative assistant for Assemblyman Harvey Johnson. Upon Assemblyman Johnson's retirement in 1979, she decided to run for his seat in the California State Assembly. She won the race and served as the Assemblywoman of CA-60 for 14 years.

It is evident through Sally's impactful career that she truly touched the lives of all those who knew her. Some of her many achievements in the California Assembly include becoming the first Chair for the Clean Air Clean Water committee, the Toxic Waste committee, and establishing the California Consumers Board. She wrote many influential bills, including the Lemon Law, which has helped thousands of California consumers of failing vehicles seek retribution. Sally was a fierce advocate for women and marginalized communities