

war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This short, but furious and deadly, conflict stemmed from historical differences regarding geographic territory based on ethnicity and religion. I do not pretend to know the details of this conflict. The seeds for this conflict were sown decades ago, perhaps even a century ago, with the advent of the Soviet Union as well as the decline of the Ottoman Empire.

Here is what I do know. The Armenians and the Azerbaijanis deserve to live and prosper in peace. Nations require territorial integrity. The boundaries of a given nation should also reflect history, ethnicity, and religious differences to minimize conflict.

I am hopeful for the future that these two nations, both with a proud and great history, will be able to resume their relationship in peace and that the parties work, in good faith, to resolve their issues without bullets.

God bless the people there and through His will it is my hope peace will prevail.

HONORING PATRICIA THOMPSON

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Thompson and wish her well in her retirement after 43 years of dedicated service to the township of Willingboro, New Jersey.

Patricia first joined the Willingboro Police Department in 1978 as a traffic guard and since day one, she has been a comforting presence to Willingboro students and residents. Having lived in the town for most of her life, I was not surprised to hear that throughout her tenure, Patricia was eager to take on additional responsibilities like overseeing the bicycle auction. Her commitment to Willingboro earned her a promotion to Crossing Guard Supervisor in 2011, where she has been a vital addition to training the next generation of crossing guards.

On behalf of our entire district, I want to thank Patricia for her tireless commitment to the township of Willingboro, New Jersey. I wish Patricia every enjoyment in retirement with her husband and children.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF GEORGE LABLONDE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life of George LaBlonde, who passed away recently after a lifetime of service. Through his extreme dedication to the public good, George became an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.

A native Yooper, George was born in Ironwood, Michigan, on October 17, 1938. He was raised in Ironwood and graduated from Luther L. Wright High School in 1956. With a deep-rooted drive to serve others, George furthered his education at the Michigan Col-

lege of Mining and Technology in 1960 while also earning a commission as a Second Lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He went on to attend several other prestigious institutions including Purdue University, the U.S. Army War College, the Department of Defense Language Institute, the Army Command and General Staff College, and completed numerous other specialized courses. In addition to his impressive and comprehensive military education, George's 30 years of service earned him several honors and decorations including the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, the Parachute Badge, amongst many others. As a retired Marine myself, I greatly appreciate the longtime devotion George gave to our Nation.

George passed away on October 29, 2021. His steadfast care and friendly nature towards all members of his community will surely leave a lasting mark on those who had the opportunity to know him. He is missed dearly by his family and friends, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on for generations to come. George's tireless dedication to public service touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of George LaBlonde. His legacy will forever live on in his family and in the many lives he bettered through his service.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE LEONARD
AND HER SERVICE TO THE
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to thank Christine Leonard for her service to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Christine came to the Committee as part of a career focused on judiciary and criminal justice issues. Before joining the Committee as Counsel, Christine had a long history of working closely with the Committee in various roles, including as Counsel to Rep. Delahunt, Senior Counsel to Sen. Ted Kennedy, Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs at the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as the Director of the Vera Institute of Justice's DC Office, Executive Director of the Coalition for Public Safety, and as Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Christine received her B.A. and J.D. from Boston College.

Christine joined our Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security as Counsel in 2020 and has played an integral role in our prison and drug enforcement reform work. Among other things, she also played a critical role in helping to advance my bill, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act—which would reverse failed federal policies criminalizing

marijuana and would take steps to address the heavy toll this policy has taken across the country, particularly among communities of color—through the Committee.

The Committee and the country at large have benefited greatly from Christine's dedication to reforming our criminal justice system and ensuring our laws are equitably applied. We will greatly miss her strong work ethic and passion for justice, as she takes the next step in her career.

We thank Christine for her service to the Committee and wish her the best of luck with this new chapter.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIAN
MASON

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Brian Mason. Lt. Colonel Mason enlisted as a medic on Active Duty in 1985. He served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm as a medic on a Forward Area Surgical Team assigned to the 44th Medical Brigade (Airborne), and his unit was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation. He commissioned as an Engineer Officer in 2002 assigned to the 875th Engineer Battalion then deployed as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer with the 239th Engineer Company, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Iraq in 2003 through 2005. He has had various full-time duty assignments in the AGR program, culminating now as a member the Adjutant Generals' special staff, State Public Affairs Officer and Director of Communications.

He was an Assistant Professor of Military Science and Executive Officer of the Red Wolf Battalion when U.S. Army Cadet Command tried to eliminate the program at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He also served two years in the command position, the Professor of Military Science, bringing the program back from closure and into viability standards. During his six and a half years at Arkansas State University, he commissioned 102 officers for the Active Duty Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve.

Upon retirement, Lt. Colonel Mason and his wife, Loretta, plan to enjoy their grandchildren and hiking. He will continue teaching classes as an Adjunct Faculty member at Arkansas State University for the College of Nursing and Health Profession's Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management program. I thank Lt. Colonel Mason for 36 years of total service and 26 years of Active Duty service to our Nation, State and community.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF DUNBAR HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join

me in celebrating Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School's 150th anniversary and particularly Carrie Thornhill for her phenomenal leadership with the Dunbar Alumni Federation. I am fortunate to be an alumna of Dunbar High School and a member of the class of 1955.

Dunbar High School, which started in a church basement, was the first public high school for African Americans in the United States and remained segregated until 1954, when the District of Columbia was one of the six *Brown v. Board of Education* jurisdictions that successfully challenged segregated schools in the United States. Dunbar was instrumental in making the District of Columbia a bulwark of education for almost a century, attracting students from across the District, who were drawn by the school's excellent reputation. That same reputation was reinforced by Dunbar's remarkable record of graduating more distinguished African Americans than any high school in the country. Among them were Edward Brooke, the first Black popularly elected United States Senator; Robert C. Weaver, the first Black cabinet secretary; Benjamin O. Davis Sr., the first Black general in the U.S. Army; Wesley Brown, the first Black graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy; Charles R. Drew, the discoverer of blood plasma; and Mary Jane Patterson, the first African American to achieve a college degree. Dunbar also drew teachers with advanced degrees who would have been college professors but for segregation in higher education.

In 2002, Dunbar High School established the Dunbar Alumni Federation, which works in partnership with school leadership to create better futures for Dunbar students and graduates, which has already awarded over \$1.5 million in scholarships to over 700 students. Dunbar has been recently rebuilt into a state-of-the-art facility and became a neighborhood school following the *Brown* decision. Its storied history continues to inspire generations of students.

I have introduced a bill directing the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of Paul Laurence Dunbar, the proceeds from the sale of which would benefit of the Dunbar Alumni Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dunbar High School for 150 years of educating the students of the District of Columbia.

SENATOR JIM JONES BIRTHDAY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize former Nebraska State Senator, Jim Jones, on the occasion of his 90th Birthday.

I had the honor to serve alongside Senator Jones as a Member of Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature, allowing me to witness his dedication to rural communities. His commitment assured that our farmers, ranchers, and all Sandhills residents had a passionate voice in the Legislature.

His family, friends, and community know well his passion for rural life. We are all grateful for his servant leadership. Congratulations again to Jim Jones on his 90th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING MARY ANNE CHERN ON HER DECADES OF SERVICE TO ADVENTIST HEALTH WHITE MEMORIAL AND TO THE HEALTHCARE FUNDRAISING INDUSTRY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, today I recognize my good friend Mary Anne Chern, ACFRE, FAHP, a highly regarded healthcare fundraiser who has retired from Adventist Health White Memorial in Los Angeles after 24 years of dedicated service. White Memorial is the region's leading faith-based, non-profit hospital and is located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. For years, Mary Anne served as president of the Adventist Health White Memorial Charitable Foundation and as a member of the hospital's Executive Team. I thank Mary Anne for her years of friendship and counsel and her unrelenting dedication to the healthcare fundraising profession.

Over the course of her 40-year career, Mary Anne has raised over \$500 million for healthcare institutions in principal and major gifts, private grants, and government funding. She is highly respected by her peers and is a friend and mentor to healthcare development professionals across the nation and worldwide. Mary Anne is one of only seven fundraising professionals in the world to have achieved both the Advanced Certified Fund Raising Executive (ACFRE) and the Fellow of Association of Healthcare Philanthropy (FAHP) certifications. She is also a Si Seymour Award winner for "career excellence and outstanding leadership." The Si Seymour Award is the highest international recognition in healthcare fundraising and has only been given to a total of 41 fundraising professionals since 1970.

In 2010, Mary Anne was elected to be the international chair of the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP) by its over 5,000 members. The AHP is the leading authority on healthcare philanthropy and it represents development professionals at more than 2,000 nonprofit hospitals, medical centers, health systems and related facilities throughout North America and abroad.

Mary Anne has extensive experience teaching fundraising best practices and she served on the two boards that certify professional fundraisers internationally: the CFRE Board of Directors and the AHP Board of Certification, the latter of which she chaired. She also served on the national board of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and its greater Los Angeles chapter, as well as the boards of CFRE International, which credentials fundraising professionals; the Milton Murray Foundation for Philanthropy, which develops the expertise of nonprofit leaders; and the Southern California Association for Healthcare Development (SCAHD).

Mary Anne is the co-author of a book and the author of numerous articles on fundraising. She won the AHP Journal Award in 2009 for her article, "Hispanic Fundraising: Myths and Realities." She has a special interest in social determinants of both individual and population health, and she currently serves on the Steering Committee of the Los Angeles County

Community Health Assessment and Action Partnership.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mary Anne's immense contributions to the healthcare fundraising industry and her outstanding leadership and commitment to providing quality and accessible health services to the greater Eastside Los Angeles community through Adventist White Memorial. Thanks to her years of service, my constituents have been able to access high-quality care in a modern and technologically advanced facility. Mary Anne's ability to make others feel special and welcome in the Adventist Health White Memorial community is something we will all miss. I thank her for her warmth and her dedication to ensuring that the healthcare industry has the funding it needs to implement the highest possible care for Angelenos, Americans, and patients around the world.

CONGRATULATING KIEL ATANASOFF FOR RECEIVING THE PATRIOT AWARD

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Kiel Atanasoff for receiving the Patriot Award by the Department of Defense. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to workers and servicemembers at Krist Oil Company, Kiel has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Patriot Award is presented to supervisors and employers across the country who display exceptional support towards servicemembers in their workforce. In recognition of his exceptional leadership and devotion to his colleagues, fellow employee and Guardsman David Froland nominated Kiel for this distinguished award. This is in response to Kiel's continued support to Mr. Froland when he was deployed to Washington, D.C., earlier this year with the U.S. National Guard. A longtime U.P. company, Krist Oil has continued to exemplify the gold standard of support for our military members and communities. As a veteran myself, I greatly appreciate the dedication they give to both our active and retired Servicemembers.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Kiel Atanasoff for receiving the Patriot Award. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Kiel all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING TIEFFA "TI" HARPER AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to