

serving as the Garrison CSM for Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

For his outstanding service, CSM Graham has been awarded numerous prestigious awards, including the Bronze Star, Defense Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and many other federal and state awards.

CSM Graham perfectly embodies the official organizational march of the United States National Guard "Always Ready, Always There!" He is a true American patriot and I am honored to call him my friend and fellow Guardsman. Our military servicemembers deserve to be recognized for their commitment to our great Nation and I am grateful for his unwavering dedication to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFE APPLICATION MINISTRIES

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Life Application Ministries, which is celebrating 25 years of service to the community of Warren, Michigan.

Life Application Ministries is a historic African American congregation, inspired by enthusiasm to give back and share the love of God, and preserve morale and justice throughout the community. Life Application Ministries grew out of a bible study group that quickly garnered members throughout the 1990s.

In 1996, Bishop Adolphus L. Cast founded the ministry in a time where African American congregations were not as prevalent in the area. In moments of racial injustice, the church gracefully responded with endless love and compassion to the community. Bishop Cast's mission has been to bring racial and economic harmony to the city of Warren and his leadership has led to significant momentum in that effort over the last two and a half decades.

Throughout its history, the ministry has honorably served the Warren community with various community programs including annual food drives and blood drives, providing financial assistance to residents and businesses, assisting people in need of help with home repair and cleanup projects, as well as participating in larger city cleanup efforts. The church also offers shelter to residents in need through partnership with the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team.

One cannot recognize Life Application Ministries without acknowledging the remarkable leaders whose everyday commitment and dedication positively impact their members, our community, and beyond. I am proud to have the honor of recognizing Life Application Ministries today and to mark this quadricentennial event for the congregation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations to the entire Life Application Ministries community as they celebrate twenty-five years of ministry and service in Warren, Michigan.

HONORING RUSSELL COLOMBO

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Russell (Russ) Colombo as he retires from a distinguished career in financial services spanning more than four decades and culminating in his role as President and Chief Operating Officer of Bank of Marin.

Russ grew up in Marin County, CA where he graduated from San Rafael High School. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Business Management from the University of California, Davis and his Master of Business Administration in Banking and Finance from Golden Gate University. After twenty-nine years in banking at Comerica Bank, Security Pacific, and Union Bank in San Francisco, Russ joined Bank of Marin as Executive Vice President and Branch Administrator in 2004. After only a year at the company, he was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. As President and CEO since 2006, Russ led Bank of Marin's growth into a prominent business and valued community bank in Northern California.

During his 15 years at the helm, Russ has become the face of the Bank of Marin. Under his leadership, the Bank championed honorable values of high-quality service, community engagement, and employee wellbeing. Through his local relationship-building efforts and strategic planning, including four acquisitions, Russ oversaw the growth of Bank of Marin's assets by more than \$4 billion. Throughout this period of expansion, he continued to prioritize reinvesting in the local community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Russ jumped in to meet the needs of the community, facilitating the lending of critical federal relief loans and protecting economic vitality in the region.

In a personal capacity, Russ continues to serve as Chairman of the Citizens Oversight Committee of Sonoma-Marín Area Rapid Transit (SMART). He is also a member and former board chair of the Board of the Western Bankers Association, and a former Audit Committee Member of Hanna Boys Center.

Through seasons of prosperity and difficult times, Russ never wavered from improving Bank of Marin's performance and its core mission of serving the local community. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring Russ Colombo for his many years of effective professional and community service to Marin County and extending to him best wishes on his next endeavors.

SUPPORTING THE NUTRITION INITIATIVE TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES BY THE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS AND THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION USA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in late September, leaders of the Na-

tional Baptist Convention USA and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (or the Academy) announced a strategic partnership aimed at reducing health disparities for African Americans.

African Americans suffer disproportionately from COVID-19 deaths and other nutrition-related health disparities. Increasing access to healthy foods and addressing nutrition as a social determinant of health that prevents diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and obesity are the cornerstones of this partnership.

The joint initiative will consist of developing print and media resources that can be used in faith-based health ministries on issues such as diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, eating on a budget, and living with kidney disease. The National Baptist Convention USA will encourage member churches to incorporate these resources into new and existing programs and services, including workshops and seminars focused on biblical connections to food and nutrition.

I want to commend and thank Patricia Babjak, Chief Executive Officer of the Academy, Evelyn Crayton, a past president of the Academy and the current Chair of the National Baptist Convention Task Force on the joint nutrition partnership that is comprised of members from the National Organization of Blacks in Dietetics and Nutrition, as well as religious interest groups for their commitment and leadership to addressing health disparities. The Academy has worked closely on this significant initiative with National Baptist Convention USA President Rev. Dr. Jerry Young and Vice President Rev. Dr. William H. Foster, Jr.

This partnership recognizes the importance of enhancing the lives of African Americans and every racial and ethnic group by improving nutrition security. In my Congressional District, there are too many food deserts and places where it's easier to get access to guns than fruits and vegetables.

I urge us all to get behind this initiative, and I applaud the Academy and the National Baptist Convention USA for their lifesaving work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 I was unable to attend votes and missed Roll Call votes No. 374, No. 375, and No. 376. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call vote No. 374, AYE on Roll Call vote No. 375 and AYE on Roll Call vote No. 376.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL W. MACKAY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Master Sergeant Michael W. MacKay who will be retiring today from the United States Marine Corps after 20 years of distinguished service. Mike was

raised in New York City and following the September 11th attacks he, like so many patriots, enlisted in the Marine Corps in November of 2001.

Mike's operational assignments include Operations Chief and Senior Enlisted Leader for the Commander of the Special Operations Command and Control Element in Africa. He also deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan on numerous occasions between 2003 and 2017 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Inherent Resolve. As a Critical Skills Operator, or Marine Raider, Mike has been stationed in Camp Lejeune, NC; Camp Pendleton, CA; and Washington, D.C. and has traveled to over 30 countries. He served as the Chief instructor of an advanced technical operations course at the Marine Raider Training Center and is a graduate of the USMC Congressional Fellowship program; USMC Combatant Diver Course; USMC Amphibious Reconnaissance Course; USMC Scout Sniper Course; U.S. Army Airborne Course; U.S. Army Special Forces Military Freefall; and the U.S. Navy Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course.

Mike graduated Suma Cum Laude from Norwich University's Bachelor of Science in Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis program. He earned a master's degree in Public Administration and Policy from American University and a graduate certificate in Legislative Studies from Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute in Washington, D.C. He also completed the Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education II and earned the Michael A. Monsoor Leadership Award from the Joint Special Operations Senior Enlisted Advisors Course. Mike's brave actions on the battlefield earned him a number of awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Joint Service Commendation Medal (Combat), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, 3 Combat Action Ribbons, 2 Presidential Unit Citations, 7 Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, and 6 Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals.

With his robust, boots-on-the-ground experience serving our nation around the globe, I am honored now to have Mike as a member of my staff. Prior to serving as my national security advisor, Mike was the Chief of Staff for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense of Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism and the Appropriations Liaison to the Assistant Secretary of Defense from Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict in the Department of Defense, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Mike for his exemplary service in the United States Marine Corps.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
WINTER THE DOLPHIN

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passing of Winter the Dolphin, in celebration of her extraordinary life, and in honor of her home and family at Clearwater Marine Aquarium in my district.

After being rescued from a crab trap in December 2005, two-month-old Winter lost her tail and had to adapt to life without it.

But Winter didn't just survive. She thrived. And with a new prosthetic tail, her resilience inspired millions around the world—including many wounded and disabled veterans.

Winter's story became the inspiration for the movies *Dolphin Tale* and *Dolphin Tale 2*. And over her life, Winter provided hope to all who met her, and brought awareness to the plight of marine mammals.

Winter's legacy is one of perseverance, courage, and environmental stewardship.

HONORING THE 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 155th anniversary of First Baptist Church of Franklin which has been a continuing source of inspiration for the community of Franklin, Virginia. The church was founded in 1866, a year after slavery was abolished in the United States. First Baptist Church of Franklin stands tall as the oldest organization of continuous existence in Franklin.

The beginnings of First Baptist Church of Franklin were one of hardship at the initial phase of the Reconstruction era. A young man of faith named Joseph Gregory was recommended to be a licensed preacher. Reverend Gregory was assigned a post to give the message of Christ to the African American members of this and other churches.

Through the following months, he started preaching in the little village of Franklin. He took initiative and organized the Cool Spring Baptist Church. The church started in a brush arbor near the Black Water River, which was donated by Tom Barrett, one of the church's members. Unfortunately, the brush arbor burned down but this did not stop the continuous work of the congregants. Under the leadership of the founding pastor, the members rebuilt and continued serving their community. Following the leadership of Reverend Gregory, First Baptist Church of Franklin has had a diverse succession of faithful servants, such as Reverend Guy Powell, Reverend M.E. Gerst, Dr. W.R. Ashburn, Reverend S.W. Timms, Reverend W.E. Sanderlin, Dr. M.C. Allen, Reverend Grover C. Lassiter, Reverend Samuel Franklyn Daly, Reverend Henry Blunt, Reverend Dr. Paige Chargois, Reverend Dr. D.S. Riddick, II and the church's current pastor, Reverend Marcus D. Jennings.

First Baptist Church of Franklin is still a pillar of the community. The organization's ministries bring essential services to the City of Franklin and its citizens. In these trying times, First Baptist Church of Franklin has shown resiliency and remains a source of inspiration for its congregants.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the members and leaders of First Baptist Church of Franklin for their contributions to the City of Franklin for the last 155 years. The ongoing commitment to preach the gospel, give the good news and to extend faith is reflected in the rich history of the church. I commend pastor Marcus Jennings for his vision and service to his congregation, the community of Franklin, and the members of the congregation who

all make a community of faith possible. I wish the church many more years of growth and prosperity.

REMEMBERING NUNZIO MERLO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Nunzio Merlo, who passed away on Friday, October 17, 2021 at the age of 80.

He was born September 14, 1941 in Gioiosa Marea Sicily, Italy the son of Giuseppe and Tindara Stancampiano-Pizzo Merlo. He grew up in the mountains of Sicily with his three sisters and three brothers, his father (a sheep farmer and cheese maker) and his mother (a homemaker). Nunzio's time as a young man in Sicily was spent working as a tree trimmer and a taxi driver, and he enjoyed singing and playing guitar. He met the love of his life, Maria, in Gioiosa Marea when he was nineteen and she was seventeen. They married on August 12, 1962.

On November 13, 1965 Nunzio immigrated to America with his wife and two-year-old son to build a new life. He was always a hard worker and often worked two jobs. Nunzio was employed at National Gypsum, the same company my grandfather Rizzzi worked for, General Motors Lordstown, Tauro Brother's Trucking, and the U.S. Postal Service. He was also a self-employed truck driver. He retired after 17 years working for the City of Niles Water Department in 2015.

He was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Niles, where he could always be found volunteering at the church festivals and Lenten fish dinners. It wasn't an event at Mt. Carmel unless Nunzio was working. He was a member of the Sons of Italy, Niles Democratic Club, Niles Knights of Columbus Council 1681, and he played in several bocce leagues.

Nunzio's dedication to family was at the heart of everything he did. He especially enjoyed cooking Sunday dinners for his family. Nunzio enjoyed gardening and playing Italian cards with family and friends and attending his grandchildren's extracurricular activities and events. His kind heart, willingness to help others and his infectious smile will live in the memories of family and friends forever. I can truly say, Madam Speaker, I would not be in Congress today if it wasn't for Nunzio Merlo and his family. They launched my career and I will forever be grateful.

He will be sadly missed by his wife of 59 years, Maria Calabrese Merlo, his father-in-law Tindaro Calabrese of Niles, four sons: Joseph Merlo and his wife Louise of Niles, Robert Merlo and his wife Jamie of Niles, Tino Merlo and his wife Michelle of Howland, and Giovanna Merlo and his wife Monica of Niles, two sisters: Maria Merlo of Gioiosa Marea Sicily Italy, and Rosa Merlo of Cefalu, Sicily, ten grandchildren: Giuseppe Merlo (Sarah Marlinski), Nicolette Merlo, Alenna Merlo, Nunzio Merlo, Roberto Merlo, Isabella Merlo, Gianna Merlo, Tino Merlo, Emma Merlo, and Giovanna Merlo. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins in the U.S. and Sicily.