

grateful for his longstanding partnership in serving the people of St. Joseph County. As he and his family embark on a new chapter, I wish them continued good health and happiness.

HONORING ANTHONY GALAGAZA  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield Fire Department Chief Anthony Galagaza on his retirement from the Bakersfield Fire Department after 30 years of public service to our community.

Anthony's career as a first responder and exposure to firefighting began when he accepted a summer position in 1989 as a seasonal firefighter for the United States Bureau of Land Management. Captivated by the field, Anthony decided to take his talents to the Bakersfield Fire Department, where he would complete over 30 years of service. Indicative of his knowledge of public safety and passion for helping others in times of crisis, Anthony quickly climbed the ladder within the Department. In 1990, Anthony started out as a reserve firefighter and in 1992 became a full-time firefighter. In 2013, Anthony was promoted to Fire Battalion Chief after serving as a fire engineer and Fire Captain. Five years later, Anthony was tapped to become the Fire Chief, overseeing the Department's fleet of personnel, fire stations, and various divisions.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, Anthony has transformed the Department to ensure it had the staff and resources necessary to tackle the challenges of the next decade. Some of his major achievements include significantly increasing the number of rescue squads and arson personnel in the Department, advancing health and wellness programs for Department staff and firefighters, and fostering public trust in the community. The emphasis on public trust and outreach helped the Bakersfield Fire Department maintain its elite status among fire departments as a recipient of a class two rating by the Insurance Services Office, which assesses the ability of a fire department to respond effectively to fires in its area of responsibility. This high rating indicates the effectiveness of the Bakersfield Fire Department and is a testament to Anthony's effective leadership as the Fire Chief.

Anthony's investment in, and passion for, keeping the people of Bakersfield safe is without question. That is why, in August 2021, as House Republican Leader, I had the privilege to appoint him to the Medal of Valor Review Board, which reviews individuals to be awarded the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor—the highest national award for valor a public safety officer can receive—and make recommendations to the White House.

Throughout his career, Anthony has dedicated himself to serving others, building trust in the city, and ensuring the safety and security of homes, schools, and workplaces in our community. He has been integral in highlighting the value of our firefighting and dispatch personnel and will be missed by the Ba-

kersfield Fire Department, which he has referred to as his second family. On behalf of the people of Bakersfield and the 23rd Congressional District of California, I would like to thank Anthony for his decades of service to our community and I wish him and his family the very best as he starts this next chapter of his life.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the global competition for ideas between the community of democracies and the People's Republic of China (PRC) is nowhere more apparent than in Kazakhstan, where the PRC has steadily increased its influence in the country since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The PRC wants Kazakh oil, cheap Kazakh labor, and most importantly, Kazakh government help silencing predominantly-Muslim Central Asian peoples, whose reports of genocide on their kinsmen in Xinjiang are inconvenient and embarrassing to the PRC.

While pursuing their goals in Kazakhstan, the PRC pushes its authoritarian governance model, a growing contempt for human rights, and assistance with mass surveillance tools. And too many Kazakh leaders have proven to be all-too-willing accomplices.

Perhaps most troubling is the PRC's pressure on Kazakhstan to keep Kazakhs, Uyghurs, Kyrgyz and other Central Asians silent about the genocide and other gross violations of human rights in Xinjiang. On July 13, 2021, Gulzira Auelkhan, an ethnic Kazakh from the PRC who had emigrated to Kazakhstan but returned to China, gave heart-breaking testimony at the hearing I chaired at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission about her experience as a survivor of China's concentration camps.

Ms. Auelkhan testified that while she was in the camp, Chinese authorities subjected her to physical, mental, and spiritual torture. One particularly disturbing story was that Chinese authorities inserted needles under her fingernails for attempting to cheat on a Chinese language exam. She also testified that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) runs a forced prostitution system inside these camps, where Chinese men routinely rape the female prisoners.

While Chinese authorities released her due to pressure from a Radio Free Asia story that revealed her plight, Gulzira's troubles only increased upon her return to Kazakhstan. Instead of sympathy, Kazakh officials intimidated her, and pressured her family to stop speaking out about the horrors she experienced in Xinjiang. Her refusal to stay silent resulted in her having to flee to the United States in search of a place where she could speak freely about the Chinese concentration camps, and how Kazakhstan rejected her.

The fact that Kazakhstan enables China's genocide in Xinjiang arises from Kazakhstan's dependence upon PRC's massive monetary investments, including in the Belt and Road Initiative, and the malfeasance of kleptocratic Kazakh officials.

Some of these corrupt officials reportedly have ties with the Eurasian Natural Resources

Corporation (ENRC), a Kazakh-based company that three billionaire Kazakh businessmen and the Kazakh government founded. ENRC shares ties with members of the former president's family, particularly Timur Kulibayev, who was part of a questionable pipeline deal brokered with Chinese entities. The company has also been investigated by the UK's Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

Sadly the record of gross human rights violations by government officials acting with impunity is not new in Kazakhstan. In 2012, at a hearing I chaired, entitled: "Kazakhstan: As Stable As It's Government Claims?", our witnesses provided expert testimony questioning the stability of the country and exposing state-wide corruption and massive human rights abuses sanctioned by the Kazakhstan government—including torture and abuse by government security forces.

At the time, the government of Kazakhstan was headed by the former authoritarian "President for Life" Nazarbayev, who ruled with an iron fist, snuffing out dissent and fighting hard to obscure the serious human rights and democracy deficiencies that marked his reign.

Today, unfortunately, his oldest daughter, Dariga Nazarbayeva reportedly carries on the family legacy of corruption as a member of the Kazakh Congress.

According to the Eurasia Democracy Initiative, Dariga Nazarbayeva used an illegal passport to open multiple Austrian bank accounts containing millions of dollars, tapping her position and her father's to launder ill-gotten wealth out of the country. A Times of London article recently revealed that she and her son owned over £140 million of property, including the fictional home of Sherlock Holmes, located on 221b Baker Street.

There is little hope that these oligarchs, rich with money stolen from their own people with the assistance the genocidal foreign regime of the PRC, will even-handedly administer justice or respect human rights when they so readily abuse the rule of law, jeopardizing the rights and security of their fellow Kazakh citizens at the apparent behest of the CCP and for their own financial interests.

The Biden Administration must engage the government of Kazakhstan more forcefully, including the use of sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing the Biden Administration to elevate and combat the human rights abuses in Kazakhstan, address corruption in this strategic part of the world, and do everything it can to counter the CCP's baneful influence in Kazakhstan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDAL  
S. MACDONALD

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Randal (Randy) S. MacDonald, who died unexpectedly on October 6, 2021. Randy is deserving of recognition for his life-long commitment to protecting our environment, and his passionate efforts to educate and inspire action to address the existential crisis of climate change.

Randy was born in Alameda, California and was raised in a family that valued the importance of environmental activism. From a young age, he was passionate about politics, the environment, and social justice. Randy went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from University of Oregon, in 1990, with a degree in Political Science.

While in Oregon, Randy was an elected City Councilor in Eugene, Oregon, and worked as Director of Legislative and Community Affairs at University of Oregon. He is remembered there for his leadership in successful efforts to restore state funding for public higher education, and for winning voter approval of funding to build and improve local fire department facilities.

Randy returned home to California in 2000, settling in scenic Comptche, California, in the heart of Mendocino County. Always a steward of the environment, Randy planted 2,800 redwoods on his 50 acres to aid its return to the natural conifer forest it once was. He served on many committees and boards of groups fighting for action on climate change, including as Chair of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club's Climate and Energy Committee. In his professional work, he served as partner/owner and COO of a successful online business offering continuing education for health care professionals.

Randy's community service was both deep and broad. Randy advocated in Washington, D.C. for all rural communities to have high speed internet connectivity, and he succeeded in bringing this to Comptche in 2009. He was an active volunteer with the Comptche Volunteer Fire Department for twenty years, still holding the position of Safety Officer at the time of his death.

Randy is survived by his wife Janis, stepson Jonathan, father James and his wife Carol, siblings Charlotte, Gail, and Mark, stepbrother Rande, and stepfather Ed, five nieces, and one nephew.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Randy's family and many friends, and in expressing our deep appreciation for Randy's extraordinary dedication throughout his life to the betterment of our natural environment and the broader community.

HONORING ADEOLA "ABRAHAM"  
OLAGBEGI

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Adeola "Abraham" Olagbegi from Jackson, Mississippi.

After a successful bone marrow transplant in November 2020, Adeola Olagbegi was given a chance to Make-A-Wish. Instead of wanting something a typical 13-year-old fighting cancer may ask for, he used his wish to start something bigger than himself.

Mr. Olagbegi chose to use his wish to feed the homeless for a year in his hometown, Jackson, MS. Before being diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, a rare and life-threatening blood disorder, Mr. Olagbegi and his family looked forward to feeding the homeless every

third Saturday in every month. This service to the community is known as "Abraham's Table." "It was always a good thing to do, and that's what I grew up doing that, so I go back to my roots to do what I was taught to do."

"I am a person of hope, so when you come against a big mountain, you have to remember you have a big God." Mr. Olagbegi is a living testimony that if you pour out good unto God's people, God will turn around and bless you beyond measure.

After 10 months of "Abraham's Table", Mr. Olagbegi hopes to turn his wish into a non-profit organization that will continue to impact the City of Jackson for the better. Since the beginning of Abraham's Table, Mr. Olagbegi has fed over hundreds of homeless citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Adeola "Abraham" Olagbegi for his dedication to serve the homeless for years to come.

COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP  
OF DAN FINCH

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commending the leadership of Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association Vice President of Advocacy, upon his retirement after 39 years of exemplary work on behalf of patient care and the physician practice of medicine.

Daniel "Dan" Thomas Finch was born on November 16, 1952, reared on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., the eldest of seven children, and the son of a Navy veteran. He moved to Texas in 1982, to work for the Harris County Medical Society before heading to Austin in 2006 to join the public affairs advocacy team of the Texas Medical Association.

Dan's commitment to hard work and serving others began early in life in Catholic school as an altar boy and later with his first job out of University of North Carolina as a bus driver. These early life experiences molded Dan's leadership, communication, and navigation skills which serendipitously led him into a medical association communications position with the North Carolina Medical Society, and then a brief stint with the American Medical Association in Chicago, before heading to Houston where he began a 24-year stint with the Harris County Medical Society, and eventually to Austin where he has served the past 15 years with the Texas Medical Association.

Dan's rapid trajectory and success professionally in the field of medical association communications and advocacy was matched only by his private life as a Renaissance man who developed keen interests as a guitarist, singer, photographer, golfer, motorcycle enthusiast, world traveler, cigar aficionado, Astros baseball fan, home gardener, and outdoor grill master.

Dan has been equally well grounded as a dedicated husband to his loving wife, Becky, for the past 41 years, as a caring father to their daughter, Liz, and son, Nate, and as the loving "Pops" to all of his grandchildren. He has offered his many talents to the community, including being a member of his church band in Houston which performed every Sunday in their Hawaiian shirts. His respect

among his working peers, his dedicated service to the more than 53,000 member physicians in the Texas Medical Association, and his public affairs accomplishments in both the Texas Legislature and in Congress led to his ascension as Vice President of Advocacy for the Texas Medical Association.

Texas is a better and healthier State in part to Dan's steadfast commitment to the highest standards and quality of patient care in Texas, protections for physician autonomy in caring for their patients, common sense health insurance reforms which put patients before insurance profits, and medical liability protections which prevent lawsuit abuse.

Dan's most memorable advice to his younger colleagues was, "A doctor long ago told me if we do what's right for patients, we'll do what's right for physicians, and that's always been my guiding light."

Dan and Becky are now replacing the rolling Texas Hill Country of Austin with a retirement home closer to their grandkids in the rolling hills of Manhattan, Kansas (which is much preferable to that other Manhattan).

I ask that my fellow Members join me in saluting the life, work, and accomplishments of Daniel "Dan" Thomas Finch, on behalf of the Texas Medical Association, for a healthier Nation. I am humbled to formally declare Dan a "great American" who has earned his retirement spurs and a "great Texan" (even if he's not in Texas anymore).

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF CHERYL CATES

**HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2021*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Key West's former First Lady, Cheryl Cates. Her outstanding public service to the Florida Keys and South Florida and unwavering sense of conviction earned her the respect and admiration from those who knew her and anyone she crossed paths with.

Cheryl led an incredible life full of perseverance and devotion. She was selfless and dedicated to our community having served on several boards and committees. In 2012, Cheryl was awarded the Community Service Award of Excellence for her committed decade of service to Zonta, an organization dedicated to empowering women through service and advocacy. Additionally, she was awarded the Key West Business Guild's Presidential Award and the Key West Star Award from the Chamber of Commerce for her grand contributions over the years.

Cheryl's tremendous service over the years was exemplary. Her legacy is a testament of what it means to be selfless and noble. Her ongoing support and encouragement for local non-profits fostered great awareness in the Keys. Cheryl served as the First Lady of Key West for more than a decade, representing city leadership at hundreds of events throughout former Mayor Craig Cates' time in office.

A woman of dignity and integrity, Cheryl Cates will be remembered for her lifelong charitable contributions to Key West and her dedication to public service. It was a pleasure knowing her. She will be profoundly missed.