

are detected in women's breast milk. During her time on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, she brokered a crucial deal to stop the San Leandro Hospital from closing, effectively saving jobs, keeping an emergency department running, and strengthening our community's healthcare infrastructure.

Supervisor Chan was a great leader for the East Bay and the entire state, a consummate public servant, and a true friend. She embodied service, uplifted the vulnerable, and used her platform for the betterment of all. She said, "My goal is really to make sure that children and families have everything that they need to be successful and to have a good quality of life." That is the precise sentiment by which she served and lived.

In her memory, let us continue the fight to remove systemic barriers and hurdles so that all members of our community can thrive and flourish. Supervisor Chan's legacy should continue to inspire us to keep up the work for justice and equality to which she dedicated her life.

As California Members of Congress, we thank Wilma for her service and honor her as an ardent champion for healthcare, education, children, seniors, and justice in our community. May Wilma's soul rest in peace and in power, and may her great legacy be a reminder of the work for justice and equality that remains. May we always honor Supervisor Chan, by taking the baton and rising to the occasion, as she so lovingly did, in service to her fellow human beings.

On behalf of the 13th Congressional District of California, I honor Supervisor Wilma Chan for her service and dedication.

HONORING DAVE KILCULLEN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a former soldier and diplomat, and now author and scholar, Mr. David Kilcullen.

For both his homeland, Australia, and for the United States, Mr. Kilcullen has enjoyed a long career in national security and counter-insurgency. After commissioning as a lieutenant with the Australian Army, he would go on to serve in a number of operational, strategic, command, and staff positions both in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and Australian Defence Force. In 2005, after leaving active duty, he began working with our State Department in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism.

Working in the field led Mr. Kilcullen to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia, and he would ultimately assist with the drafting of Army's Field Manual on counter-insurgency. He advised senior officials, from General David Petraeus to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to NATO headquarters, on addressing the threat posed by insurgencies and guerilla warfare. He's both a brilliant thought-leader as well as a man of action who supports aid agencies, non-government organizations, and local communities in conflict and disaster-affected regions around the world.

Simply put, Madam Speaker, Mr. Kilcullen's expertise is second to none, and when I need-

ed a trusted partner for a mission as complex as the evacuation of Afghan allies from Kabul, he was exactly the right person at the right time to pull it off. He personifies the Aussie notion of "mateship," that unbreakable bond of friendship, loyalty, and shared purpose.

Without Dave's help, I'm not sure we would have been able to wrangle the caravan of buses and make sure they made it safely through the wire. When we were in the thick of it, we relied on his expertise and his determination, and only because of both were we able to prevent our Afghan allies—and the lives of so many others—from being lost.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Dave Kilcullen for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his unique ability to think outside the box to obtain safe passage for vulnerable Afghans and for his calm demeanor and resourcefulness in the midst of chaos and uncertainty, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING AMERICAN HEROES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, 2021 will tragically be remembered for the murders at Kabul International Airport of American Heroes:

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas;

Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole Gee, 23, of Sacramento, California;

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah;

Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tennessee;

Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, California;

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum, 20, Jackson, Wyoming;

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California;

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui, 20, of Norco, California;

Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan Page, 23, of Omaha, Nebraska;

Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, Lawrence, Massachusetts;

Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto Sanchez, 22, Logansport, Indiana;

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Missouri; and

Navy Hospitalman Maxton Sowiak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio.

As a military parent of four sons who have served overseas, I cannot imagine what their grief-stricken families are going through during this Christmas season.

The decision of the President and the Vice-President in April to abandon the people of Afghanistan and appease the Taliban/AI-Qaeda terrorists led to the deaths of these American Heroes.

Sadly, this most catastrophic course of action will clearly shift terrorist suicide bombers from the Afghanistan safe haven to American neighborhoods.

The Global War on Terrorism continues with murderous attacks in New Zealand, Norway,

the United Kingdom, Uganda, Israel, and at Afghan Mosques.

The Democrat elite think they are smarter than everyone, and think Democrat voters and Democrat media are ignorant to believe that "the United States ended 20 years of war." They will gruesomely discover that now the targets are here at home.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the Global War on Terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

HONORING JESSICA GARRELS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team who helped us identify—and eventually evacuate—vulnerable Afghans after the fall of Kabul, Ms. Jessica Garrels of Michigan State University.

For nearly a decade, Ms. Garrels has worked in project management, including direct oversight and implementation of humanitarian assistance programs. Through her work, she's helped vulnerable communities around the world—growing their institutional and human capacity, building resilience, and expanding school nutrition and education initiatives. Community organizing is ingrained in Ms. Garrels' DNA—she's also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger, a director with the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, and senior manager with Catholic Relief Services in places like Burkina Faso, Mali, and Laos.

It's this knack for finding solutions that led her to play such a key role in our mission to evacuate Afghans affiliated with Michigan State University when Kabul fell to the Taliban. In early August, she was part of the team that submitted initial visa applications for staff and scholars associated with the university's Grain Research and Innovation (GRAIN) program. However, when the evacuation window shrunk from a few months to a matter of days, she sprang into action. With desperate pleas for help flooding her inbox, she turned them into an outreach campaign to contact Members of Congress and anyone else who could help.

Thankfully, Ms. Garrels was able to join our ragtag effort—whereupon she immediately set out to gather critical information from GRAIN scientists and their immediate families. When our group of evacuees made it onto a caravan of buses and began their perilous journey to safety, Ms. Garrels worked around the clock to handle bureaucratic obstacles as they came up. I have no doubt that thanks to her quick and efficient response, lives were saved that would have otherwise been lost.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Jessica Garrels for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her skill in handling logistical challenges as they came up and for fast-tracking the requests for funding that allowed vulnerable MSU-affiliated Afghans to make it on the flight, I submit these words—

may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

FIRING OF TENNESSEE TEACHER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was saddened when I read this morning about an incident concerning a teacher and a school board in East Tennessee. Matthew Hawn was fired for teaching about white privilege to his largely white classes of Contemporary Issues students in Sullivan Central High School in Kingsport, Tennessee. Mr. Hawn used both historical and contemporary examples, including the recent trial of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd. The General Assembly of Tennessee recently outlawed teachers from teaching critical race theory or ideas that any race is “inherently privileged, racist, sexist or oppressive” and backed the law with financial penalties. This sort of legislating is a throwback to an earlier period of intolerance and fear of history and science. Our state’s reputation was stained in the 1920s by the prosecution of Dayton, Tennessee, schoolteacher John Scopes for teaching evolution. I had hoped those days were long behind us. I guess not. Confronting painful periods in our country’s history—such as slavery, segregation, the Trail of Tears, women denied voting rights—will make our students more tolerant, aware and worldly. I am deeply troubled by what has happened to Mr. Hawn and I hope decision makers will restore him to his place in the classroom where he can challenge young minds with new ideas.

HONORING MAJOR HOLLY GRAMKOW

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of my team who leveraged her military logistics experience to evacuate our Afghan allies to safety, Major Holly Gramkow.

Since 2009, Major Gramkow has been a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. She’s a graduate of the University of Portland Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and has over a decade of on-the-ground experience working on F-16, A-10 and C-130J airframes.

Throughout her military career, she has held positions as Fabrication Flight Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Unit Officer in Charge, and Director of Operations; as well as an Exchange Officer position with the Chilean Air Force as their Chief of Propulsion for F-16s. Major Gramkow has also served as an Aide-de-Camp and most recently as Branch Chief for Legacy Fighter Sustainment, Headquarters Air Force. She’s also the Chief Financial Officer for the Logistics Officer Association, a non-profit that supports the professional development of her fellow officers.

However, it is during her time with our office as a Defense Fellow where we’ve seen her re-

lentless commitment to others firsthand. Despite limited previous experience with the legislative branch, she has taken to the work like a natural—leading key initiatives on veterans issues, military supply chains, and the National Defense Authorization Act. Any one of these areas would take up the full bandwidth of a seasoned staffer, but she’s been able to handle the competing priorities with skill and aplomb.

Our team was immensely fortunate to have Major Gramkow on staff when we were called to action and I am beyond thankful that we were able to rely on her skill to lead our effort in evacuating vulnerable Afghans. Despite being 2,000 miles away from Washington, D.C. and nearly 8,000 miles from Kabul at times during our mission, she made a difference at a time when for so many, things looked so grim. Our team owes an immense debt of gratitude to Major Gramkow—with the grit of Rosie the Riveter and the resourcefulness of her logistics officer training, she is truly a living embodiment of the core values of the Air Force: “integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do.”

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Major Holly Gramkow for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her efforts to jump into the breach and serve around the clock as staff lead of our operation, and for marshaling the full weight of our office, actions which are in keeping with highest traditions of our military and our Nation, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

SUPPORT FOR HEALTH BILLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of seven bills that originated in the Health Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce which I have the privilege to chair. These bipartisan bills address the following: health threats to newborns including stillbirth, newborn hearing loss, and birth defects; improving cardiac care and oral health literacy; providing needed mental health support to doctors and other health care professionals; and improving diversity in the allied health workforce.

H.R. 5487, the SHINE for Autumn Act of 2021 seeks to reduce the impact of stillbirth by increasing research and data collection to address the tragedy of the 24,000 babies who are stillborn in the U.S. every year. I thank my colleagues Reps. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, and KATHY CASTOR for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 5561, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2021 reauthorizes programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to address hearing loss in newborns. I thank my colleagues Reps. BRETT GUTHRIE and DORIS MATSUI for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 5551, the Improving the Health of Children Act reauthorizes the National Center on

Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. This critical center at the CDC helps advance the health of babies born with birth defects, developmental disabilities, blood disorders and other disabilities. I thank my colleagues Reps. BUDDY CARTER and LORI TRAHAN for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 1193, the Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy Act funds NIH and CDC research and public education for valvular heart disease. The bill is named in honor of Carol Leavell Barr, the wife of Rep. ANDY BARR, who died last year of sudden cardiac arrest, and I thank him for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 1667, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act is named after Dr. Lorna Breen, an emergency department doctor who died by suicide last year. Physicians have the highest suicide rate of any profession, and this legislation provides grant funding for suicide-prevention and peer-support at healthcare facilities. It also helps ensure healthcare professionals can ask for mental health help without facing negative consequences in their careers. I thank Reps. SUSAN WILD and DAVID MCKINLEY for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 3320, the Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act of 2021 establishes a grant program to improve diversity in the physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathology professions. I thank Reps. BOBBY RUSH and MARKWAYNE MULLIN for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 4555, the Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Act of 2021 directs the Health Resources and Services Administration to conduct a public education campaign to improve awareness of oral health. I thank Reps. TONY CARDENAS and GUS BILIRAKIS for authoring this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to vote for these bills and I thank the members of the House Health Subcommittee and the bipartisan sponsors of each bill for their good work.

HONORING SCHALK SPIES

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our man on the ground and a key member of the team during our operation to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul, Mr. Schalk Spies.

Service is ingrained in Mr. Schalk’s DNA—he served as a captain in the South African National Defense Force, commanding several pathfinder and parachute Special Forces units on missions focused on border protection, surveillance and reconnaissance. Since leaving the military, he’s worked as a security and operations manager with over a decade of experience in private sector risk management for international clients. With his top-notch professionalism and attention to detail, he’s been relied upon time and time again to oversee all aspects of operations and logistics for U.S. government and non-governmental organization stakeholders.

When we needed someone to make sure our MSU-affiliated Afghan allies got to the