

community organizing, ballot initiatives, local and statewide legislative campaigns, and corporate campaigns, Stephanie has been committed to ensuring low-income communities have the power to decide their own destinies. Ms. Porta has worked on successful campaigns for candidates and issues-including environmental justice, community safety, community development, health care, public education and more.

Stephanie served as the Florida Director of ACORN where she organized communities across the State. She successfully led the effort to raise Florida's minimum wage, pass police accountability reforms, as well as advocate for foreclosure prevention programs and affordable utilities.

She later co-founded Organize Florida, a nonprofit member organization of low- to moderate-income people. She led efforts to expand Medicaid, pass paid sick days, gun control, and clean energy legislation. In 2016 and 2018, she supported outreach efforts to more than four million voters across Florida.

Stephanie has been recognized by the Orlando Sentinel, Orlando Weekly and Orlando Magazine for leadership on government transparency and issues facing the working poor.

HONORING LT. COL. ANTHONY
WILLIAMS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the exemplary service of Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Williams as a Department of Defense legislative fellow. LTC Williams is transitioning from his current assignment in my office to serve as an Army Legislative Liaison for Intelligence in the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison, Programs Division.

Born in Seoul, Republic of Korea, LTC Williams was commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer from Louisiana State University in 2004. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering from Louisiana State University, his Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in Rhode Island and is currently attaining his Master of Professional Studies in Legislative Affairs at George Washington University.

LTC Williams served in a broad range of assignments within the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, mostly with the 75th Ranger Regiment. He served seven total combat deployments in Iraq, Turkey and Afghanistan. He most recently served as the Senior Intelligence Officer for the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force Syria in Turkey, assisting partnered forces and conducting counterterrorist missions.

While too numerous to mention in their entirety, LTC Williams' military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

I have had the privilege of working directly with LTC Williams as a fellow in my Capitol Hill office over the last year, LTC Williams' professionalism, performance and commitment

to his work in my office were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and made a lasting impression on both myself and his Capitol Hill coworkers. We will all miss him tremendously.

I have also had the pleasure of meeting LTC Williams' family, who shares his selfless commitment to our country. I thank his wife, Tanya, as well as his two children, Liam and Leona, for their sacrifices made in supporting his service.

Madam Speaker, throughout his career, LTC Williams has positively impacted soldiers, peers and his superiors. He is a model Army Officer and our country has benefited from his extraordinary leadership and passion for our Armed Forces. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend LTC Williams for his commitment to our country and wish him all the best as he continues his Army service.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAISHA FIELDS, JESSICA PRICE,
ANDREA HERBERT, AND KELLY
OSUNA

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of volunteers led by Maisha Fields, Jessica Price, Andrea Herbert, and Kelly Osuna for their work providing equitable access to the lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine.

The devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been felt in every corner of our community. Unfortunately, underserved communities have borne the brunt of the pandemic—with racial and ethnic minority groups contracting and dying from COVID-19 at a much higher rate due to discriminatory healthcare practices, lack of healthcare access, disproportionate representation in front-line occupations, and unfair and crowded housing conditions.

As the COVID-19 vaccine finally began its rollout, many breathed a sigh of relief as a return to normalcy seemed within view. However, community leaders like Maisha, Jessica, Andrea, and Kelly—who had seen first-hand the effects of inequity in our pandemic response—knew vaccine accessibility would not only face similar challenges reaching marginalized groups but would ultimately hamper our recovery and cost even more lives.

These four incredible women jumped into action and created a system of equitable vaccine clinics that operated throughout underserved communities in Arapahoe and Adams Counties. Their efforts included extensive collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, finding and securing accessible venues, and recruiting volunteers to work at the clinics as translators, organizers, and vaccine administrators. Despite working full-time, this group of women went on to hold over 150 equity vaccine clinics throughout our community—culminating in more than 50,000 people receiving life-saving vaccines.

Time and time again, it is community leaders like Maisha, Jessica, Andrea, Kelly, and their devoted group of volunteers who give me hope we can overcome any challenges that

are thrown our way. I am honored to recognize this group of volunteers led by these four women and I thank them for their work putting our community on a path towards a more equitable and safe place to call home.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lancaster Public Library in the Town of Lancaster, New York on its bicentennial anniversary.

The Lancaster Public Library was founded in 1821 as the "Cayuga Creek Veterans' Library Society" in honor of the estimated forty veterans from the American Revolution and War of 1812 that founded the library. The library grew considerably over the years, moving from the Johnson School House to the Lancaster Presbyterian Church in 1832. It then moved to the Town Hall in 1896 and then to the Potter Estate in 1940 after the residence was donated by Mrs. Fanny Potter Eaton. In 1947, the growing Village of Depew located within the Town of Lancaster opened its own branch library, enabling even more Western New Yorkers to read and learn. By 1964, the Depew branch had opened its own exclusive facility until the Lancaster and Depew libraries merged in 2005.

Today, the Lancaster Public Library is one of the most vibrant and community-oriented libraries in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System. The library hosts various programs for all community members to enjoy. In recent years, the library has organized institutional staples for children such as story hours, crafting, and science activities. For adults the library hosts lectures series from local leaders on business, STEM topics, government affairs, and the arts. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lancaster Public Library worked to provide extensive virtual programming for the residents of Lancaster. Additionally, raffles, giveaways, and chicken barbeque fundraisers also help to promote the Lancaster Public Library's close-knit relationship with our community.

The Lancaster Public Library also partners with other local organizations and agencies to enhance their patrons' library experiences. Through the Lancaster Historical Society, the library has been able to compile photography displays of Lancaster from its humble beginnings to the bustling town that it is today. With Frosty's Ice Cream, a Lancaster favorite, the library has organized scavenger hunts for children with Frosty's coupons as prizes. Finally, the Lancaster Public Library has worked closely with the Erie County Department of Health to keep community members knowledgeable about COVID-19 and vaccinations. The library has forwarded public health directives and created public forums for citizens to speak directly with county health officials.

I thank the Lancaster Public Library for its tireless efforts serving the community since its founding and I again congratulate the library on its bicentennial anniversary.

COMMEMORATING THE NAIC'S
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate and commend the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) on the celebration of its 150th Anniversary and for the many years of advocacy and responsible stewardship of the insurance industry. Since its founding in 1871, NAIC has worked to diligently regulate the national insurance industry and market and protect hundreds of millions of American consumers.

As the first elected State Insurance Commissioner of California and former member of the NAIC, I know how invaluable state regulators' frontline role can be in holding insurance companies accountable. I am proud to continue to work closely with the NAIC here in Congress, including through the introduction of my bill the Primary Regulators of Insurance Vote Act. This important piece of legislation would support the work of the NAIC by ensuring that the expertise of our nation's primary insurance regulators, state commissioners, has equal weight in the monitoring of our financial stability at the national level.

Were it not for the work of the NAIC and its members, Americans would all too often be left unprotected from predatory practices of insurance companies. On behalf of the people of California's 3rd Congressional District, please accept my sincere congratulations and gratitude for the work you have done and continue to do and my best wishes for the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS.
KATHERINE BURCH

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to extend my best wishes and congratulations to my constituent, Ms. Katherine Burch, on her 100th birthday.

Ms. Burch was born on November 28, 1921 in Baltimore, Maryland, where she lived until her marriage to John Thomas Burch when the couple moved to Virginia. John and Katherine Burch were married for 60 years and have two sons, Thomas and William. Ms. Burch currently resides in Morningside House of Leesburg.

Ms. Burch has lived through remarkable times in our country, progress and change unimaginable at the time of her birth. Our community is blessed by her experience, accomplishments, and the family she has built.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the grace and wisdom that comes with such longevity and wish Ms. Burch many more happy years of celebration.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF
KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Congressional Caucus, I rise today to celebrate 30 years of Kazakhstan's independence and three decades of the U.S.-Kazakhstan bilateral relationship. In 1991, the United States was the first country to recognize Kazakhstan's independence, and the relationship remains as important today as it was 30 years ago.

In 2010, the United States and Kazakhstan entered into a Strategic Partnership and launched the Annual Bilateral Consultations on a variety of issues including but not limited to regional cooperation and security, rule of law and economic development, and human rights and civil society. In 2018, the two countries elevated their cooperation to establish an Enhanced Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century, and agreed to heightened cooperation on a multitude of policy issues.

One of the strongest areas of cooperation between the United States and Kazakhstan has been in the economic arena. Since independence, U.S. companies have been a significant source of foreign direct investment for Kazakhstan, and over the past 30 years, U.S. investment in Kazakhstan has totaled an estimated \$370 billion. Kazakhstan has worked hard to create a strong market economy, and the country has focused significant resources on rule of law issues to create a welcoming environment for all foreign investment.

Kazakhstan became a member of the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes ("ICSID") in 1992, a member of the World Trade Association (WTO) in 2015, and in 2017, Kazakhstan became a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In 2018, the government officially launched the Astana International Finance Center (AIFC), which among other things, provides foreign investors with the opportunity to seek out an alternative jurisdiction for dispute resolution. Such investments in the rule of law in Kazakhstan have been an important step to grow Kazakhstan's market economy and continue to attract investment from the United States.

As we continue to grow our strong economic ties, I urge Congress to establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations for Kazakhstan as soon as possible. I was honored to recently join in the bipartisan effort to introduce H.R. 5544, which lifts Kazakhstan from the existing constraints of the outdated Jackson-Yanik Amendment. This graduation for Kazakhstan is long overdue. As Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over U.S. foreign policy issues affecting Central Asia, I understand what an important regional partner Kazakhstan has been to the United States during the past 30 years. But I also understand what an important role Kazakhstan will continue to play in the region moving forward, and any efforts to strengthen our economic ties will strengthen the bilateral relationship across the board.

So I would like to congratulate all the people of Kazakhstan as well as Kazakh-Americans

taking part in the 30th anniversary celebrations this month.

HONORING RANDOLPH BRINKLEY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks on behalf of Congressman Ben Cline and myself in honor of Randolph "Randy" W. Brinkley of Daleville, Virginia, who passed away on November 13, 2021, at the age of 51. Mr. Brinkley served the community as a long-time educator and scoutmaster.

Mr. Brinkley was born on January 12, 1970 in Covington, Virginia, to Robert Franklin Brinkley and Glenda Scott Brinkley. Following his graduation from Alleghany High School in 1988, he joined and served in the U.S. Army National Guard for the next eight years.

He received degrees from numerous universities including a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Mary Baldwin and a Post-Masters degree as an Education Specialist from the University of Virginia. He began his teaching career in Roanoke city. Over the years he taught at several schools throughout the state and helped them establish programs to foster STEM education for their students. For the last five years, Mr. Brinkley has been serving as the STEM instructor for Salem High School.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Brinkley spent much of his time serving as a scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts of America. He was an Assistant Scout Master and High Adventure Coordinator for Troop 211, which met at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. He was also a Mason at a local lodge and a Shriner who advocated for the Shriner's Hospital for Children. He spent his life teaching and investing in the lives of youth in the community. His distinguished service and kindness will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Brinkley's survivors include his wife of twenty-five years, Donna Lynn Brinkley; his son, Nathaniel Scott Brinkley; and many other beloved family and friends. We offer them my condolences on the loss of this great man and educator.

SEA ISLE CITY BEACH PATROL

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, in October, I had the opportunity to attend the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol Annual Hall of Fame Induction. The Sea Isle Beach Patrol was officially formed in 1919 to protect the beachgoers who vacationed in the popular resort town. It started as just two lifeguards and three volunteers and has now grown into a large group. At the induction I attended, Robert Herzog, Bill Feaster, Jr., Jim Guntle, Jordy Troyan, Danny Rodgers, and Pat Scannapieco were inducted into the Beach Patrol Hall of Fame. Robert has been a part of Sea Isle Beach Patrol for 8 years and was also the mascot for multiple Sea Isle City Beach Patrol