

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

surf bash competitors. Bill has been a part of Sea Isle Beach Patrol since 1980 and was a top 3 finisher multiple years in Sea Isle City Beach Patrol singles. Jim won the Avalon Beach 6-mile run and was also voted by beach patrol members to be the first President of the Sea Isle Beach Patrol lifeguards. Jordy was a full-time lifeguard from 2003 to 2010 and represented Sea Isle Beach Patrol on the Surf Dash Team, Swim Events, and Paddle board events. Danny won the singles row for the Sea Isle Beach Patrol for the first time in its history. Lastly, Pat has been a rowing legend on the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol for many years and has won the title of "the most winningest doubles oarsman" in the history of the Sea Isle Beach Patrol. These individuals should all be proud of their accomplishments and service to South Jersey, and it was my honor to watch them be inducted into the Hall of Fame. God Bless the Sea Isle Beach Patrol, and God Bless America.

CONGRATULATING GARY COHEN
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Gary Cohen of Oakland, California, on occasion of his retirement from Blue Shield of California following a distinguished career as an attorney, public servant, advocate, mentor and leader committed to improving the health and well-being of millions of Americans.

Gary served the House honorably as my Chief of Staff in 2010 before helping lead the Obama Administration's implementation of the Affordable Care Act as the Director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) where he oversaw implementation of regulations that established critical consumer protections that directly impacted the lives of millions of Americans.

As General Counsel to Covered California, California's health benefit marketplace—and Deputy Commissioner General Counsel during my tenure as California's Insurance Commissioner—Gary served as a passionate voice for consumers and worked tirelessly to improve Californians' access to affordable and comprehensive insurance coverage. As General Counsel for California's Public Utilities Commission, Gary developed a legal strategy that put consumers first amidst the state's unprecedented energy crisis.

In private practice, and following his government service, Gary pushed major California companies, including Blue Shield, to act instead of stand on the sidelines on making health coverage more affordable for members, empowering patients with better access to health data, and addressing the Bay Area's homelessness crisis.

Gary's experiences as a patient led him to push for a delivery system that is simplified, affordable and more patient friendly. He served as a trusted, experienced advisor to the California delegation on health care issues, and I have no doubt he will continue to do so following his retirement on the issues that matter.

In government and the private sector, Gary led with compassion and empathy. Gary in-

spired his staff to be passionate, fearless and to act consistent with their values in standing for what is right, no matter how challenging the politics or environment.

Gary is also a loving husband to his lifetime love Liz, and an attentive father and grandfather. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our appreciation and best wishes to Gary and his family following an outstanding and meaningful career.

HONORING YOLETTE BONNET

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yolette Bonnet, a fierce advocate for health care in Florida's 21st Congressional District who recently announced her retirement. For 20 years, Yolette has been committed to improving access to quality health care for individuals and families across South Florida. She has gone above and beyond to meet their health care and social service needs, regardless of their ability to pay.

Under Yolette's leadership, what began as a small social service organization in 1985—then known as The Comprehensive AIDS Program—has since been transformed into a community health center that provides comprehensive and culturally competent care to all people. Known today as FoundCare, this organization plays a vital role in the Palm Beach County community.

Yolette has worked to garner millions of dollars in grants and donations for FoundCare, helping the organization to expand to a total of seven locations across the county. Yolette was instrumental in helping designate FoundCare as Florida's first Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), which receives federal funding to serve low-income members of our community. Today, FoundCare is the largest non-governmental FQHC in Palm Beach County. Yolette has also supported our community throughout the COVID-19 public health crisis, initiating Florida's first COVID-19 community testing site at FoundCare.

Yolette's dedication and service to the people of South Florida is truly inspiring. Her outstanding work has touched countless lives, and I am so thankful for her efforts to improve health equity within our community. I wish her well on her retirement and I am proud to honor her today.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MR.
CAMERON COLLIER

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Cameron Collier of Decatur, Indiana for his dedicated service to our Nation as an officer in the United States Navy. Cameron has just retired from the Navy, and I wish to reflect the gratitude I, and all northeast Indiana, have for him.

Having graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2001, Cameron reported to

Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in 2003, where he underwent training in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During Iraqi Freedom, Cameron served as a Radar Intercept Officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Harry Truman*.

In 2006, Cameron moved to Annapolis, Maryland with his family, where he served as the Training Officer on staff at the Naval Academy. He left active-duty service in 2010 to pursue a career in financial planning, yet remained an officer in the Naval Reserve, attaining the rank of Commander in 2016. In this capacity, he also served as Chairman of my Service Academy Board, responsible for interviewing and evaluating high school students in Indiana's Third District seeking a nomination to U.S. service academies.

I hope Cameron's heart is filled with joy knowing he has played an essential part in securing our country's greatest blessings. As he retires from the Navy and prepares to move on to the next chapter of his life, understand that his record of service will stand as a shining example to generations of Hoosiers contemplating serving our country for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIM
LEYSER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend, veteran, Jim Leyser, who passed away on November 17, 2021. Jim was well known in the Central Valley and was actively involved in the community, volunteering his time for many causes. Jim was a father, husband, loyal friend, and veteran.

Jim was born August 8, 1946 and was adopted in Hawaii to Maurice and Myrtle Leyser. Maurice, was a career navy submariner and was stationed on the submarine base of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. As Jim got older, Jim felt the need to join the United States Marine Corps. In 1968, he enlisted and got out in 1976. During that time, Jim was part of the Crash Fire and Rescue in the Philippines and Japan. In 1976, Jim got out of the Marine Corps as a sergeant.

After serving in the Marine Corps, Jim met the love of his life, Mary. On April 24, 1981, they were married and started a family together. Jim worked at the Veteran Affairs Hospital in the specimen lab. He was part of the Marine Corps League as well as Commandant for Detachment-14 and was in the American Legion Charlie Waters Post 4, previously in Post 147. Jim participated on the K9 awards board committee and was State President for the American Legion for 2013–2014. He also assisted the commander of the district 14 on American Legion Posts meetings, and so much more.

Jim was often seen during Christmas volunteering for Toys-for-Tots; celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday at the ball every year and helping bartend for veteran events with the Marine Corps League. He made sure to be included in awareness events like the Suicide Awareness Ride, the annual Spaghetti Dinner