

to many areas while working for the Social Security Administration. As mayor, he worked to stimulate business and motivate business owners to enhance the downtown high traffic areas and preserve historical Johnstown, providing the town with a better first impression.

Mayor Jackson always had an open-door policy for any constituent who wished to meet with him. His accomplished record and willingness to serve are evident in his over fifty years of public service. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his exceptional leadership and his example as a true public servant and wish him the best of luck in his next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EDITH PRAGUE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of an eastern Connecticut legend, and my friend, Edith Prague.

Edith's life was marked by service to others, as teacher, a social worker, a state legislator, a state commissioner. I met Edith in our days working together in the Connecticut General Assembly, where she served first a State Representative from 1982 to 1990 and then a State Senator from 1995 to 2013, and her example and guidance on how to conduct yourself as a public official influenced so many new legislators, myself included. She was a fierce and tenacious legislator—never one to back down from a tough debate or miss a chance to advocate for those she served.

Edith was especially passionate about her work for seniors—from lowering drug costs, to expanding access to long-term care and home-based care. In 1987 the State of Connecticut permanently established the "CONNPACE" program which was one of the few public programs that provided direct help to seniors for prescription drugs. That program was a prototype for the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program enacted by Congress two decades later. I remember well as a new state representative from Vernon, Connecticut watching Edith's inspirational passionate speeches on the floor of the general assembly the day CONNPACE was enacted. That passion led to her confirmation to serve as the first ever head of the CT Department of Aging, another Prague initiative, which gave her an even bigger platform to advocate for the needs and priorities of those in need in the later stages of life.

That was always a hallmark of Edith's service—looking out for others and fighting on behalf of those who needed a champion. Edith called herself "a social worker with power," and she worked every day to use her platform to make a difference in the lives of those she served and crossed paths with over her lifetime. The proof of that is in the countless people across eastern Connecticut who can say that Edith helped them in ways big and small.

Above all, though, family was the most important part of Edith's life. Being a mother and grandmother was always top priority for Edith, and I know daughters Shelley, Benay and Joanne and grandchildren Nathan, Matthew, Sam, Josh, Chris, Brian, Katie, Tim and Mi-

chael, will remember her love and passion for her and for others in need.

I will always be grateful to call Edith my colleague and my friend. She was truly one of a kind, a wonderful person we just won't see replicated. Our region, our state and our country are better for her lifetime of service and dedication to others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Edith's life and legacy as eastern Connecticut mourns her passing.

BRINGING JUSTICE TO SOLDIERS

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, passage of this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) serves as an act of reprieve—and justice—for every sexual assault survivor who has put their life on the line in the name of service for this country and has been left behind in the wake of injustice.

The NDAA contains the revised I am Vanessa Guillen Act. For the first time, the NDAA establishes the Office of the Special Trial Counsel which empowers and requires independent investigators to investigate allegations. That means for the first time, the NDAA takes the authority to prosecute sexual assault and harassment away from the military and gives it to independent military prosecutors.

The military justice reforms included in this annual defense policy bill are historic and the most transformative in our nation's history. It is the culmination of years of advocacy from military sexual assault survivors, their families, and supporters.

But let me be clear: my position on our nation's bloated defense budget remains unchanged.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues to address climate change, racial injustice, and guaranteeing that families across the nation receive the relief they need as we work to build back better from a global pandemic. These are all problems that no amount of military spending can remedy, and we must redirect federal resources to the people, to our future generations, and to our working-class Americans.

While I have historically voted "no" and plan to continue to do so—this was once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to finally right generations of injustice against our nation's servicemembers in uniform, to finally bring some sense of justice to the family of Vanessa Guillen and countless other soldiers who are victims of assault. I refused to leave them behind once more.

With the passage of this year's NDAA, survivors of sexual assault will finally be guaranteed an independent military attorney to decide whether to prosecute and make other key, binding decisions in these cases—also ensuring that domestic violence, stalking, murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and other special victim offenses are taken out of the chain of command. We are one step closer to justice and protection for our soldiers.

My constituents can rest assured that I will continue my work to rein in defense spending and to invest resources in programs that pro-

mote peace, protect our planet, and provide the American people opportunities here at home.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAVID BALLENGER

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. David Ballenger is an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism serving our nation's veterans. He has served with the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs for more than 17 years. His career in public service is a testament to the importance of selfless service.

For the last 10 years, Mr. Ballenger served as the Director of the Legislative Team in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at VA. He has been involved in a remarkable breadth of important matters spanning VA's health benefits, memorial functions, human resources, information technology, and real property. In this capacity, he has been the conduit between Congress and VA, providing technical assistance on multiple pieces of landmark legislation including the VA MISSION Act, the Forever GI Bill, the VA Disability Appeals Modernization Act, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, the Veterans' COMPACT Act, and the Deborah Sampson Act. He also spearheaded the Department's legislative proposal submissions.

As Mr. Ballenger embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he will recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Congress, and veterans of the United States. May his life be filled with health and happiness.

CELEBRATING THE GENEROSITY OF MR. RALPH ROTELLA

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the generosity of Ralph Rotella, owner of Discount Shoe Repair in Syracuse and driving force behind Ralph's Rescue Mission Shoe Drive.

In 2010, Ralph Rotella was inspired to start Ralph's Rescue Mission Shoe Drive after seeing a homeless person outside of his shop, walking in the cold with their toe sticking out. He made the decision to provide that person with a pair of usable shoes. From that day, Ralph began annually collecting, repairing, and donating shoes to the Syracuse Rescue Mission to help more people in-need.

In Ralph's first year of operating the Shoe Drive, he donated less than 100 pairs of shoes. Each year since then, he has steadily expanded his operation, and in 2020, donated 23,187 pairs of shoes—one of the largest donations the Rescue Mission has ever received.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Ralph Rotella for his determined efforts to aid underserved members of our Central New York community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANSELMO
F. ARELLANO

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anselmo "Chemo" F. Arellano. As a historian, educator, author, and activist, Anselmo used his talents to preserve New Mexico's rich culture and history. In Northern New Mexico, he was what we call a seeker of el oro del barrio—the knowledge which is the gold of our community.

Anselmo was born on April 27, 1944, in Springer, New Mexico. His family instilled in him a love for his heritage and culture which remained with him throughout his life. Anselmo spent many years as a postsecondary educator in New Mexico. His passion for learning and sharing his knowledge was apparent to those who had the opportunity to meet and learn from him.

Anselmo's career in education began at Fresno State University at the age of 25, where he taught courses in ethnic studies and directed a program for first-generation minority college students. While working at Fresno State, he also volunteered for the United Farmworkers Organizing Committee.

As a distinguished Ford Foundation Fellow, Anselmo received his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of New Mexico in 1990. He used his education to preserve the history, culture, and traditions of Northern New Mexico and taught others to do the same. Anselmo was nationally recognized for his work and was selected as a featured historian by the Smithsonian Institute for its New Mexico exhibit.

Like many Nuevo Mexicanos, Anselmo knew the power of community and that *acequia es comunidad*. That's why he worked to secure land and water rights for New Mexicans across the state. Understanding the hardships that his community faced, Anselmo also worked to improve access to education, housing, and health care. He served on boards for numerous community organizations and institutions including the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

On behalf of Nuevo Mexico's, Third District, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary life of Anselmo "Chemo" F. Arellano—a humble and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. I hope that his legacy will be carried on by everyone he shared his knowledge with and by those who knew and loved him.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER
REBECCA E. WOLF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Com-

mander Rebecca E. Wolf, U.S. Navy, upon her completion of the Department of Defense Legislative Fellowship program. Assigned to my office for the 2021 calendar year, Commander Wolf quickly became an integral part of my legislative staff.

Her expertise as a U.S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer informed my work as Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness. Over this past year, Commander Wolf worked closely with both my personal office and Readiness Subcommittee staffs on the military's most pressing readiness challenges. In particular, she helped to secure passage of my "Support Our Military Working Dogs Act" in section 373 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

She also helped to develop several legislative priorities that I will be pursuing in the forthcoming Coast Guard Authorization Act for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. As chair of the State Lands Commission while serving as California's lieutenant governor, I am grateful for the compromise she negotiated between the U.S. Coast Guard and our state regulator on the public availability of information regarding the performance of ballast water management systems. She will be deeply missed after an exceptional year of service, where she made a lasting impact.

Commander Wolf was commissioned through the U.S. Naval Academy, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in oceanography. She went on to earn a Master of Science in physical oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School. Commander Wolf's operational assignments include service aboard the USS *WASP* (LHD 1), USS *FORREST SHERMAN* (DDG 98), and USS *PINCKNEY* (DDG 91). She was also the executive officer and then commanding officer of USS *GLADIATOR* (MCM 11). Her shore and staff assignments include tours in Afghanistan, at the Surface Warfare Officer School, and at COMDESRON 23.

Her extensive naval background, work ethic, and problem-solving skills were critical to my work toward recapitalizing our military's organic industrial base and ensuring that our military is ready when needed. While Commander Wolf will be missed by Team Garamendi, the U.S. Navy is lucky to have her back in the ranks leading sailors. We wish her fair winds and following seas as the executive officer of the USS *MOMSEN* (DDG 92) and are excited for all her future successes.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of California's Third Congressional district and a grateful nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Commander Rebecca E. Wolf for her dedicated service.

CONGRATULATING RAY DUNAWAY
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, Ray Dunaway has been the voice of Connecticut for nearly three decades. Ray was hired by WTIC-AM to replace another Connecticut legend, Bob Steele in 1992. Since then, he's been the voice of talk radio in Connecticut each and every morning. Over his

tenure, he's helped raise millions of dollars for the Greater Hartford Salvation Army through his annual holiday store. I have had the pleasure of joining Ray over the years and I'm honored to call him a friend. Both the following articles from the Hartford Courant and the Journal Inquirer capture what Ray has meant to the citizens of the state of Connecticut. I look forward to tuning in to his last show tomorrow morning on Christmas Eve. We wish him well in retirement and know his voice will always be missed.

[From the Hartford Courant, Nov. 19, 2021]

"VETERAN RADIO VOICE DUNAWAY TO SIGN OFF"

(By Kenneth R. Gosselin)

Ray Dunaway, the morning radio personality who followed the legendary Bob Steele on WTIC-AM and won over listeners with a relaxed but informed conversational style, will retire from the radio station next month after 29 years.

"You just get tired of waking up," Dunaway said. "You just do. I love the morning. I do. I wouldn't do any other shift, but the thing is, after a period of time, it's kind of like you've been there, done that. And I think it's time for somebody fresh to take a look at it."

Dunaway, 72, said the decision to retire from the morning show, which airs weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., was entirely his own. His last show will be on Dec. 24.

His co-host, Brian Shactman, will continue to host the morning show, the station's parent company, Audacy, said.

Dunaway was hired to replace Steele in 1992, bringing with him more than two decades of radio experience elsewhere in the country. Steele had a storied local broadcasting career spanning more than five decades, and Dunaway would be Steele's second replacement. Steele's immediate successor lasted just a year.

"The fact of the matter is, it was nerve-racking because I had gone to Trinity [College] and my roommate used to listen to Bob religiously," Dunaway said. "He was really good. It was a great responsibility taking over that job."

Quick acceptance wasn't a sure thing for Dunaway with the memory of Steele still fresh and dissatisfaction among some viewers about a move by WTIC to talk radio.

"Connecticut-ites weren't necessarily going to make that easy," recalled Gary Zenobi, then general manager of WTIC, who hired Dunaway. "But he filled Bob Steele's shoes in a different way. Formats were changing. Ray was just perfect for that because he could hold a conversation not just about anything but with anyone."

Dunaway's arrival also coincided with rapid changes in AM radio. WTIC's daytime music listeners were moving to FM radio, leaving AM stations like WTIC to carve out a different niche, which turned out to be talk radio.

Dunaway's popularity with listeners survived four ownership changes at WTIC and a relocation from One Financial Plaza, the "Gold Building" in downtown Hartford, to Farmington in the early 2000s. The tone of talk radio has turned more contentious and far less civil since Dunaway joined WTIC.

"It is polarizing, no doubt, but the good ones try to make it as fair as they possibly can," Dunaway said. "You can have your point of view. There's nothing wrong with that, and you are able to share it." Dunaway said he worked earlier in his career with conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh, who died in February. Dunaway said he considered Limbaugh someone who thought things through before expressing his opinions.