

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BETH BARTKE AS THE  
2020 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 26, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Beth Bartke, whom I have named the 2020 Woman of the Year in Contra Costa County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Although she is proud to call Martinez home, Mrs. Bartke was born in Pasadena and spent most of her youth in San Fernando and Santa Rosa, initially coming to our district to pursue a degree in elementary education from Sonoma State University. She could not bring herself to leave its natural beauty and tight knit community, choosing to settle in the district permanently.

Dedicating her time and effort to the community she holds dear; she served on the Hercules City Council from 1992 to 1996 and was a ten-year board member for the Commissioner's Advisory Panel for the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District and a thirteen year employee of the Pinole Police Department. Even in her retirement, Mrs. Bartke is committed to public safety and regularly volunteers with both the Pinole and Martinez Police Departments while simultaneously working to enhance community recognition and appreciation of our first responders throughout the district.

Beyond the time she gives to city government, Mrs. Bartke also works with our community's homeless population, operating showers and serving meals to a multitude of non-profits. She also participates in the torch relay for the Special Olympics, a tradition she carries on every June. Mrs. Bartke is relentless in always finding a way to serve our community.

Mrs. Bartke's selflessness and commitment to service can in part be attributed to her faith. The Bartke Family are members of the Creekside Church and the tenets of Mrs. Bartke's faith have guided her professional and private life. There is no doubt that Mrs. Bartke has had a great impact on so many members of our community.

Our community is immeasurably better for all of Mrs. Bartke's contributions and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today as Contra Costa's 2020 Woman of the Year.

BRIEN WALL

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 26, 2021*

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brien Wall, a constituent, a 25-year Allegheny County Democratic Committee member, and a lifelong Pittsburgh area resident, who unexpectedly passed away on Saturday, March 6, 2021, in Fort Myers, Florida.

Born on July 5, 1948, in Pittsburgh, Brien was a proud graduate of South Hills Catholic High School. He also graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics as part of the class of 1970. A dedicated alumni of IUP, he was instrumental in founding IUP's Center for Family Business. Committed to the preservation of the family business as the basic element of the American free enterprise system, his leadership helped shape the underlying mission of IUP's Center for Family Business and enhanced its reputation greatly.

Brien was a veteran of the United States Army. He was drafted immediately after college and was selected to serve as a military policeman at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he held a top-secret clearance.

A Certified Family Business Specialist at Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company for 23 years, Mr. Wall dedicated his professional career to solving problems for clients. Recognized nationally for his work, Brien was one of only 250 employees throughout the country to receive the Family Business Specialist designation, and he was one of only ten agents named to the Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company Master's Club out of 4,000 agents across the nation.

Brien was also an active community leader, giving back as much as he could. He was a founding member of, and served as the finance chairman for, Allegheny Health Choices, and he was a member of both the Three Rivers Labor Management Committee and the Eberly College of Business advisory council. He also served on the board of the St. Francis Health Foundation, where he was awarded the "Courage to Come Back Award."

Brien is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Patricia Ann; children, Brien, Erin, and Sean; grandsons, Brien and Robert; and many family members and friends.

Brien Wall was a good man, whose impact was felt throughout our region and by every person who was blessed to meet him. On behalf of the 18th Congressional District, I want to celebrate the contributions Brien made throughout his life. He will be greatly missed.

CELEBRATING HARVEY SOLWAY  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. HALEY M. STEVENS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 26, 2021*

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th birthday of Mr. Harvey Solway of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, who reached this milestone on March 24th.

Harvey has spent his long and loving life dedicated to his beloved family and countless friends. He has maintained a vibrant career as the successful Chief Executive Officer of Pet Supplies Plus, and now investment enterprises.

Harvey's family encouraged friends around the country to write to him and share a favorite memory, and I would like to include mine here for this record.

It is well known that the first time I met Harvey Solway was when I was in high school, and I entered his house after school with his daughter, Allison, one of my best friends. I mistakenly thought he was asking me how my day went, when in fact, he was speaking to his wife. My precocious seventeen-year-old self responded that I was exasperated to find out that a government education program for young adults had concluded its application period, and that I had missed the deadline.

While Allison regales many with this story frequently, what many do not know is that Harvey Solway was one of the first people to encourage my run for Congress.

Harvey has lent generous wisdom and counsel to many aspiring young professionals. He does so without seeking credit or attention, but because he likes to contribute to the better outcomes of those around him. Today, I am pleased to celebrate my friend, Harvey, on his birthday. I am glad that he got to spend this milestone day with his loving wife, Nancy, by his side. Here's to many more.

RECOGNIZING PLACE OF HOPE  
AND ITS FOUNDER AND CEO,  
CHARLES BENDER FOR 20 YEARS  
OF SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF  
ABUSE, NEGLECT, HOMELESS-  
NESS, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 26, 2021*

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House of Representatives, I take any example of abuse to our citizens extremely seriously. It is incumbent on the entire United States Congress to do our part to tackle this problem. For two decades, Place of Hope and its founder and CEO, Charles Bender, have taken the baton and run its share of the race. Entering its 20th year, the organization continues to do phenomenal work in one part of our pursuit of a more perfect union.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Since its inception, the organization has provided support to over 17,000 survivors of human trafficking, homeless kids, and foster children. To this date, a remarkable 320 “forever families” have been created via adoption. Place of Hope has also helped to generate much-needed awareness for this issue. Over 40,000 community members have been educated about human trafficking under Place of Hope.

Over the years, the organization has expanded its outreach and become a more diverse enterprise. Beginning in 2008, a need for a more robust community foster care program was found. As a result, Homes of Hope was created to help recruit families in the local community to adopt foster children. The Peter and Fern Barsanti Family Life Center was opened in 2010 as another measure to provide therapy and other recreational necessities to the children within the organization’s supervision.

Organizations like Place of Hope are invaluable to making the world a better place for the next generation, particularly those that have endured unimaginable hardship. Children who have been through trafficking, abuse, and neglect have a continuum of support available to them through this terrific project that will continue to do marvelous work for our youth. Designating the month of May as the 20th anniversary of Place of Hope is a necessary step for us to take to help ensure awareness is raised and progress is made.

HONORING KARISSA KRUSE AS  
THE 2020 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 26, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Karissa Kruse, whom I have named the 2020 Woman of the Year in Sonoma County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California’s 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Ms. Kruse grew up surrounded by a loving and supportive family. A University of Pennsylvania alumna, she graduated with a BS in Economics and an MBA in Marketing from the prestigious Wharton School of Business. In pursuit of a warmer climate, she came to Sonoma County shortly after graduating, starting Argot Wines and Karma, an angel investment firm.

Ms. Kruse began her career with the Sonoma County Winegrowers in 2012 as the Director of Marketing before being named President in 2013. The following year, she launched an initiative charting a 5-year path to 100 percent sustainability, an ambitious target that reflects both her decisiveness as a leader and her passion for our environment and farming families. By September of 2019, nearly all of Sonoma County’s vineyards had been certified sustainable, making it the most ecologically friendly wine region in the world. Ms. Kruse continued to build upon the organization’s environmental leadership, establishing an exclusive partnership with the California Land Stewardship Institute to launch a Climate

Adaptation Certification, the first of its kind for agriculture.

Her tenure as President has also coincided with the recent wildfires that have challenged the resilience of the wine community. Ms. Kruse has been instrumental in guiding our agricultural communities through these tumultuous times, re-establishing the Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation in 2016 to improve the lives of agricultural workers and their families. Over the past two years, the Foundation has provided over \$1 million for wildfire recovery, housing support, and workforce development. These funds have been crucial in supporting the stability of the wine industry, which in turn has been a lynchpin in rebuilding our communities. Moreover, Ms. Kruse is thrilled to have recently married Steve Dutton, a 5th generation Sonoma County farmer, on January 1, 2021. She is honored to be a member of the Dutton family along with Steve and her new stepchildren, Jake and Jordan.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Karissa L. Kruse exemplifies the kind of business leadership that fosters vibrant, cohesive, and prosperous communities. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today as Sonoma County’s 2020 Woman of the Year.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF HAJJI  
FADWAT “EM CHAWKI”  
HAIDOUS-BAZZI

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 26, 2021*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Hajji Fadwat “Em Chawki” Haidous-Bazzi of Dearborn, Michigan who passed away on March 22nd. Her lifetime of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Hajji was born on March 1, 1938 in Bint Jbeil, Lebanon but made her home in Dearborn, Michigan. In 1957, she married Hajji Kassem Bazzi and in the wake of the Lebanese Civil War in 1975, they left their home country to come to America. Together they raised six children. After leaving her homeland, she worked tirelessly to reunite her children and their families in diaspora.

Known for her tender heart, she dedicated herself to charitable giving, volunteering, and fundraising for people in need in both Lebanon and Michigan, never asking for anything in return. Generous by nature, she was known to shower those she loved in prayer and in song.

A towering figure among those who knew her, Hajji had a commanding presence and an enduring love of family. She and her husband raised a family of forty-seven strong, who adored her infectious spirit and thoughtful humor. She is survived by her husband, her siblings, including Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous, her grandchildren, including Michigan Solicitor General Fadwa Alawieh Hammoud, children in law, and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Hajji Fadwat “Em Chawki” Haidous-Bazzi. She was a loving mother and grandmother, and a friend to many. A pillar of our community and a constant reminder of the importance of family and

charity, she will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with Mr. Bazzi and his family at this time.

IN RECOGNITION OF VICKY  
BRECHIBIEL

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 26, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vicky Brechbiel on receiving the Client Impact Award from the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce.

Vicky is a Certified Nursing Assistant at Menno Haven. She has spent 20 years as a CNA caring for her patients. She is dedicated to her patients and consistently goes above and beyond to ensure they receive their favorite foods, wake up at their preferred times, and begin their mornings well. The Client Impact Award is awarded to a person that demonstrates extraordinary efforts to positively impact the lives of their patients. Vicky treats every patient with love and respect, as well as an individualized treatment plan.

Vicky exhibits true dedication, compassion, and professionalism to the residents of Menno Haven. On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 13th District, I congratulate Vicky on this achievement and thank her for her service to our community.

MOURNING THE CONTINUED LOSS  
OF LIFE IN AMERICA TO GUN  
VIOLENCE

**HON. HALEY M. STEVENS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 26, 2021*

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in response to the exceptional number of lives that have been stolen from American communities just this month to the continued scourge of gun violence in this country.

On March 16th in Georgia, a gunman went on a deadly rampage at three spas in the Atlanta area, murdering eight people. Six of the precious lives lost were women of Asian descent: mothers, sisters, and partners.

On March 20th in Pennsylvania, a gunman opened fire at a party in Philadelphia, killing one and wounding five others.

And on March 22nd in Colorado, a gunman took ten innocent souls at a grocery store in Boulder—one of which was a police officer who arrived to help.

I fear that many have grown numb to the news of violence, death, and dreams unrealized in this country, and to those I plead: see your neighbor as yourself. Protect your fellow Americans. Do not give up on the possibility of a future free from pain and fear of preventable death.

On behalf of the victims of gun violence and their families, we cannot be deterred in our mission to institute basic protections to shield the American people from continual loss. I will not surrender to hopelessness, and neither should my colleagues in this legislative body.