

both on and off of the football field, serving as captain of the football team and as student government vice president.

After being selected in the third round of the 1970 draft by the Oakland Raiders, Gerald continued his run of excellence at the professional level. After six years starting at line-backer for the Raiders, Gerald spent four years with the Cleveland Browns before retiring in 1980. Named an "Oakland Raiders Legend," listed among the "100 Greatest Cleveland Browns" of all time, and named to the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2013, Gerald's athletic career proved truly remarkable.

Even so, his time off the field proved as noteworthy as his time on it. During the off seasons of his NFL career, he continued his pursuit of education, earning a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Chicago. Gerald put his skills and experiences to quick use. He spent a distinguished 32 years working with The Woodlands Development Company, helping hundreds of businesses relocate to The Woodlands. Gerald also served for 22 years on the Conroe ISD Board of Trustees during a period which saw student enrollment double. Because of his continued commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for others, Gerald D. Irons, Sr. Junior High School was named in his honor.

Gerald and his family were a driving force behind the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration and Drum Major Awards held each January in the Woodlands. Gerald was integral to the founding of Impact Church in the Woodlands where he served as an elder. Due to their exemplary lives of active involvement in the community, the Irons were named Hometown Heroes.

In the words of his family, "He lived a life of service to his family, church and community; to know Gerald was truly to love Gerald." Gerald is remembered by his loving wife, Myrna, and many loving children and grandchildren.

I join the entire community in honoring Gerald Irons for his dedicated life of service to others. His amazing legacy will always be cherished in our community.

KALEO CONLEY-NAKAMURA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kaleo Conley-Nakamura for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kaleo Conley-Nakamura is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kaleo Conley-Nakamura is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kaleo Conley-Nakamura for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

WUHAN WHITEWASH

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, incredibly revealing is the editorial in The Wall Street Journal on March 31, 2021 opposing The Wuhan Virus Whitewash. The unintended consequence of the blatant misrepresentation in the Wuhan Report is to further verify COVID-19 originated at the Wuhan Virology Institute leading to over three million deaths worldwide.

The World Health Organization on Tuesday finally released its report on the origins of the coronavirus, and the result wasn't worth the wait. The document is best understood as a whitewash heavily influenced by the Chinese Communist Party and Westerners with conflicts of interest.

The report—based primarily on an international team's visit this year to the city of Wuhan, where Covid-19 was first detected—has little new information.

In 2018 U.S. officials warned in diplomatic cables about safety and management issues at the Wuhan Virology Institute that could lead to a pandemic.

The U.S. State Department warned in a January fact sheet that WIV researchers had developed "symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illnesses" in autumn 2019.

Even the WHO recognizes the implausibility of the report. "I do not believe that this assessment was extensive enough. Further data and studies will be needed to reach more robust conclusions," WHO director-general Tedros Ghebreyesus said Tuesday.

The U.S. and 13 other governments released a statement Tuesday expressing "shared concerns" that the WHO study "was significantly delayed and lacked access to complete, original data and samples."

That shouldn't be the end of it. The Biden Administration knows the underlying intelligence and should release it to the public. The Biden Administration says it wants to revitalize multilateral institutions, and that should start with refusing to accept the WHO's Wuhan whitewash.

KATY McDOUGAL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katy McDougal for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Katy McDougal is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Katy McDougal is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katy McDougal for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE BYRON RYDER, JUDGE LINDA GRANT, AND SYDNEY COHEN

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Sydney Cohen of Hawaiian Springs Water for her substantial efforts in providing life-sustaining resources to Central Texans during a time of great need.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to extend my recognition to Judge Byron Ryder and Judge Linda Grant for their display of servant leadership during Texas' winter freeze. They worked tirelessly for their communities and went to great lengths to secure the water bottles provided by Hawaiian Springs Water. The residents of Leon and Freestone County have strong leaders, and for that, I am grateful.

KENDRA DICKINSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kendra Dickinson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kendra Dickinson is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kendra Dickinson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kendra Dickinson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL BORINQUENEERS DAY

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, the history of Puerto Rico is rich with examples of men and women from all walks of life, whose accomplishments inspire us today and draw the attention of the world to our Island. But one group stands out as an institution whose efforts enrich the enduring legacy and might of the U.S. military, and has left an indelible mark on all Puerto Ricans and in the history of our nation and the world. The 65th Infantry Regiment is this institution.

After the change of sovereignty as result of the Spanish American War of 1899, a military unit was recruited from the Puerto Rico residents and organized into the "Regimiento de Voluntarios Puertorriqueños". In 1908 was reorganized into a Regular Army Unit of the U.S. and in 1920 was given the numerical designation of 65th Infantry, United States Army. However, what best identifies the regiment is not its numerical designation, but the name chosen by its members while en route to the battlefields of Korea in 1950; Borinqueneers.

Organized at the dawn of the 20th Century, the Borinqueneers matured in the service of Puerto Rico and the nation, secured the Panama Canal during WWI, was baptized by fire during the liberation of Europe in WWII, and was tempered by the conflagration of the Korean War. In the hilltops and valleys of that besieged land their valor and courage, as exemplified by men like SFC Modesto Cartagena the most decorated Hispanic soldier of the Korean War, secured their place in history. In 1960, the colors of the 65th Infantry Regiment were transferred to the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, where their successors continue to serve and preserve the history and honor of the regiment.

For 121 years the Borinqueneers never wavered in their resolve to give its best in the service of Puerto Rico and the nation. Overcoming the social norms of its time and without full representation in the U.S. Congress, as deserved by all American citizens, the Borinqueneers persevered and are an inspiration to all of us.

Today, April 13, 2021 as we commemorate the first National Borinqueneers Day—an initiative that I am proud to have led along with Senators SCOTT and RUBIO, and Representative MURPHY—I call on this body and all the citizens of our great nation to be inspired by their example and work together to overcome the challenges that we face.

KARYMME RODELA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karymme Rodela for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Karymme Rodela is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. H.S. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karymme Rodela is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karymme Rodela for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
REP. JAMIE RASKIN

**HON. DEAN PHILLIPS**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and colleague, Rep. JAMIE RASKIN, in the face of tragedy and tremendously difficult circumstances, by offering a column written by one of my constituents, Kurtis Meyer.

[From the St. Ansgar Enterprise Journal]

(By Kurtis Meyer)

Until recently, I hadn't paid much attention to Congressman Jamie Raskin from Maryland. I had seen him a few times on TV news programs, but the House of Representatives generally rewards seniority instead of ability. Since Congressman Raskin was first elected in 2016, he was lacking in the category that often earns Washington status and power.

Several months ago, in late 2020, Congressman Raskin's world was altered suddenly and dramatically. His son, Tommy, a second-year law student at Harvard, one of three Raskin children, took his life, succumbing to depression. His burial was on January 5th.

We all know what happened in Washington the next day, January 6th, when Congressman Raskin, his daughter and his son-in-law were in the Capitol, awaiting the historic moment when Electoral College results would be read. After literally fearing for their lives, in the aftermath of what—the uprising? the insurrection?—Speaker Pelosi asked Jamie Raskin to serve as the House's lead impeachment manager, a process rooted in the events of January 6.

I track closely on politics. It's has been an animating force in my life for four decades. While political campaigns are too long, too expensive, and too contentious, I engage in these battles, advocating on behalf of candidates I hope will serve our community, our state, and our nation with integrity. Today, however, I seek not to shed light on a political race, but rather to shine light on the human race, specifically, the strength, courage, and resilience of Congressman Jamie Raskin.

Last New Year's Eve, he gained membership in a club no one ever hopes to join: those who experience the loss of a child. This tragedy grew out of perhaps the least understood cause of death, soul-crushing depression. I didn't know 25-year old Tommy Raskin but have read tributes to him by those who did, including his family. Here's an excerpt from their capture of this young man's life:

Tommy entered the world like a blue-eyed cherub, a little angel (and) grew up as a strikingly beautiful curly-haired madcap boy beaming with laughter and charm, making mischief, kicking the soccer ball in the goal, acting out scenes from 'To Kill A Mockingbird' with his little sister . . . teaching other children the names of all the Justices on the Supreme Court, hugging strangers on the street, teaching our dogs foreign languages, running up and down the aisle on airplanes giving people high fives.

He hated cliques and social snobbery and never had a negative word for anyone but tyrants and despots, and opposed all malicious gossip, stopping all such gossipers with a trademark Tommy line—'forgive me, but it's hard to be a human.'

Tommy had a perfect heart, a perfect soul, a riotously outrageous and relentless sense of humor, and a dazzling radiant mind. He

began to be tortured later in his 20s by a blindingly painful and merciless disease called depression that became unbearable for him, despite very fine doctors and a loving family. In a brief note to his parents: 'Please forgive me. My illness won today. Please look after each other, the animals, and the global poor for me. All my love, Tommy.'

I struggle to fathom the devastation caused by a child's death. I have watched, from both near and far, as others have faced this horrific challenge and am in awe of those who endure with grace and determination. Earlier this month, during a remarkably difficult time in our country's history, Congressman Raskin and his colleagues advanced the case for impeachment with dignity and reason. With the shadow of death still all too fresh, Jamie Raskin was a model of character in service to our nation.

As the Congressman is fond of saying, "Change is made by people who show up." Under the most difficult circumstances imaginable, Jamie Raskin showed up. I know of no better example of an elected official responding to duty, of placing service before self. In doing so, Congressman Raskin cast a bright ray of hope . . . that despite myriad challenges, our great country can continue as a beacon of enlightened democracy.

LAINA LOGAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Laina Logan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Laina Logan is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Laina Logan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Laina Logan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CONGRESSIONAL TEACHER  
AWARDS

**HON. VERN BUCHANAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future.

And it's true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.