greatly from her passion and love for educating our students; her dedicated service made our community and State better.

Mrs. West was born July 3, 1932 in Crowley, Louisiana and was reared in Orange, Texas during the height of the Great Depression, a time when the racial climate in America was even more depressing for African Americans. Knowing the importance of education, she graduated valedictorian in her high school class in Texas. She then enrolled in undergraduate studies at the historic Fisk University at Nashville, Tennessee where she would meet her late husband, Clifton L. West, Jr. The couple relocated, in 1958, to McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento where her husband was stationed. Mrs. West completed her education by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University at Sacramento and a Master of Arts from the University of San Francisco.

In 1962, before completing her undergraduate studies, Mrs. West took on a seemingly insurmountable challenge, being hired as a teacher in the all-white student and faculty Elk Grove Unified School District. This marked the embarking upon a barrier-breaking 27-year career in education. She quickly rose through the ranks in teaching and administration to the position of Principal in 1979, a position in which she served for ten years. Although she retired in 1989, she remained a very active respected presence in and around the Elk Grove-Sacramento community well into her 80s.

Despite her demanding career and devotion to serving others, Mrs. West's four children did not lack in parental love, nurturing and educational guidance. All her children excelled in academia, sports, or both, two of whom having achieved professorship at prestigious universities, and another is an accomplished Zoo linguist.

A partial list of awards and recognitions marking Mrs. West's achievements include educational awards and citations such as Teacher of the year; newspaper awards which included the 1963 Mother of the Year (her most endearing recognition); awards from Allstate Insurance, Shiloh Baptist Church, Sacramento Council of Negro Women, Sacramento Chapter of 100 Black Women; in 1979, first female principal in the Elk Grove Unified School District; and, in 2002, the first African American in Sacramento to have a school, Irene B. West Elementary, named in her honor.

Madam Speaker, today as family and friends of Mrs. Irene B. West gather to remember her, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous legacy of educator, encourager, and motivator. Her mark on the Sacramento area community will live on forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAYLOR WARE

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Taylor Ware for her service in my office in Washington, D.C.

Taylor joined our office as a legislative correspondent at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. As our office pivoted to remote work and worked 24/7 to respond to the massive increase in constituents reaching out with questions or for assistance, Taylor played an integral role. Among other accomplishments, she drafted hundreds of letters updating constituents on policy changes, made sure every incoming message was promptly referred for a response, and solely managed a detailed and high-volume correspondence system. Taylor truly went above and beyond in managing constituent correspondence, fulfilling my commitment to transparency and accountability and elevating constituent concerns so we could bring them directly to Administration officials. Taylor also worked to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in Congress through her role leading Legislative Branch appropriations for the office for Fiscal Year 2022.

Taylor's thoughtfulness, graciousness, and professionalism were invaluable assets as we worked to keep our community safe, healthy, and informed in this unprecedented year. I particularly want to recognize her efforts to support and mentor interns in our office, who relied on her for answers and guidance. Although Taylor may be leaving our office, our community in northern Illinois and my entire staff will continue to benefit from the results of her hard work and expertise.

Prior to joining my staff, Taylor earned a Bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis. I am grateful she chose to continue her career in public service by joining my office. Our office will miss her kindness, intelligence, sense of humor, and love of bizarre Jell-O recipes.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Taylor Ware for her service to my office, to Illinois's 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

THE COMMUNITY BROADBAND ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to sponsor H.R. 1631, the Community Broadband Act, a bicameral bill that empowers communities in every state to bridge the digital divide by deploying their own local broadband networks.

Tens of millions of Americans lack access to broadband or can't afford it. This digital divide is a national embarrassment, and we must do everything we can to solve it. One part of the solution should be community broadband, a proven model that works to provide fast broadband at affordable speeds to millions of Americans today.

Over 900 municipalities, Tribes, co-ops, public-private partnerships, and nonprofits across the U.S. administer broadband networks in their own communities. These are communities in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal regions of our country spanning 120 Congressional Districts.

Unfortunately, 22 states have enacted laws to limit or ban such networks. These state laws shield incumbents from competition and harm consumers. Importantly, research by New America's Open Technology Institute shows that community broadband produces higher quality service at lower costs.

For this reason, Senator CORY BOOKER, Representative JARED GOLDEN, and I introduced the Community Broadband Act which preempts protectionist state laws to enable community broadband. The Community Broadband Act was originally introduced in the 109th Congress by Senators Lautenberg and McCain, and I've been proud to carry this legislation with Senator BOOKER since the 114th Congress.

The Community Broadband Act is supported by a long list of well-respected organizations, including the National League of Cities; the National Association of Counties; Next Century Cities; the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association; National Urban League; Consumer Reports; Electronic Frontier Foundation; New America's Open Technology Institute; Public Knowledge; Free Press Action; the Center for Democracy & Technology; Access Now; the National Digital Inclusion Alliance; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; the Utilities Technology Council; the Institute for Local Self-Reliance; and the Coalition for Local Internet Choice.

Last Congress, the House passed the Community Broadband Act as part of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. The legislation is included in H.R. 1783, Majority Whip CLYBURN's Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act and H.R. 1848, the Energy and Commerce Committee's LIFT America Act, and I thank Whip CLYBURN and Chairman PALLONE for including my legislation in theirs.

I'm also very pleased that the Biden-Harris Administration's American Jobs Plan proposal includes the need for ''lifting barriers that prevent municipally-owned or affiliated providers and rural electric co-ops from competing on an even playing field with private providers,'' which can be achieved by enacting the Community Broadband Act.

At a recent hearing of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, three witnesses made a strong case for the importance of community broadband, and each endorsed the Community Broadband Act. They testified about successful networks of many types that I wish to recognize as well:

The City of Wilson, North Carolina, operates a successful fiber-to-the-home network for its residents. The City of San Rafael, California partnered with a nonprofit to develop a mesh network to provide free wi-fi to residents. EugNet is an open-access network in Eugene, Oregon that has experienced major societal returns to their investment in a community network. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is a highly successful Tribal broadband network. The City of Lafayette, Louisiana launched LUS Fiber to offer affordable, high-speed broadband for all of its residents. The City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, invested in a fiber network in 2009. That network isn't just economically viable, it turns a profit for the city even after offering low prices.

I also wish to recognize two community networks in my California's 18th Congressional District. A group of residents of the City of Los Altos Hills formed a mutual benefit organization called the Los Altos Hills Community Fiber Association to offer high-speed internet where other fiber options are sparse. The City of Palo was a pioneer when it became one of the first cities in our country to deploy a dark fiber network in 1996. This has enabled high-quality

connectivity for countless businesses. Residents are now organizing to expand this network for fiber-to-the-home offerings.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1631 and urge the House to pass this legislation swiftly.

HONORING MEDFORD LEAS ON THEIR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Medford Leas on their fiftieth anniversary. Medford Leas is a continuing retirement community with the mission of creating and advancing individual and community well-being for people aged 55 years and older.

For the past five decades, Medford Leas has provided valued high quality residential and healthcare services to older adults. From the conversations I have had with Medford Leas residents, I know Medford Leas lives up to its mission.

On Medford Leas fiftieth anniversary, I extend my best wishes to staff and residents of the Medford Leas community.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MS. BONNIE BRUESHOFF

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Ms. Bonnie Brueshoff, Director for the Dakota County Public Health Department located in West St. Paul, Minnesota, who is retiring after 27 years of service and dedication to the public health efforts of Minnesota.

Throughout her career, Ms. Brueshoff exhibited a commitment to bettering our community by chairing numerous health official boards, such as the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Time and time again, she contributed her expertise on both a state and national level to molding the next generation of public health practitioners. With her leadership, in 2019, the Dakota County Public Health Department was nationally recognized for its innovative initiatives to promote health awareness in our state.

As we continue to persevere through these unprecedented times, we must never forget to recognize our heroes at the forefront of the fight against COVID–19. Ms. Brueshoff, alongside so many others, exemplifies the true meaning of public service in the realm of civic wellness. Her career is a testament to the character of our district and our determination to assist those in need.

I rise on behalf of the 2nd Congressional district of Minnesota, expressing my deepest gratitude to her commitment to the health of our community. She created a legacy I know many hope to emulate. I congratulate Ms. Brueshoff for her many years of leadership and wish her the best as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING HOWELL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SURVIVORS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 16 graduating seniors from Howell High School who recently participated as contestants in the 14th annual ''Senior Survivor'' fundraiser.

I'm thrilled to honor Gage Altrock, Felicia Berendt, Nicole Caudy, Jackson Dukes, Lucas Gonzalez, Olivia Gray, Alyssa Johnson, David Johnston, Julia Jolly, Ryan Lane, Danny Maura, Zach Metz, Taylor Newstead, Alaina Schrock, and Molly Tucker—as well as the winner of this year's Senior Survivor: Morgan Pasini.

For a full week, these students lived at Howell High, collecting money and competing against each other in reward and immunity challenges that included scavenger hunts, trivia challenges, and cake-baking contests. This year's Senior Survivors were put to the test—not just to prove who could outwit, outlast, and outplay their fellow competitors—but also by the extraordinary circumstances they each have faced in adapting to a school year affected by COVID–19.

Each Senior Survivor was supported by a Junior Survivor from the 5th grade classes at Howell's elementary schools. These Junior Survivors led a coin drive in their schools to benefit their respective seniors.

Together, Howell students raised a whopping $220,427—which will go towards building an inclusive playground for children of all abilities at Genoa Township Park.

This playground, which will be named the Senior Survivor Playground, will let kids play together in a natural environment in order to develop physical, imagination, and problem-solving skills through self-directed play. Together with its nationally-recognized Unified Sports program, it's just one more example of the Howell community's steadfast commitment to including students with disabilities and special needs.

None of it could have been possible without the 16 seniors who came together to raise money for a noble cause. Over the years, Senior Survivors have raised more than $760,000 for various charities. It is why I have the great privilege of recognizing them on the floor of the People's House—so that their selfless service to others may be forever known.

HONORING ASCENSION MATA, SR.

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Ascencion Mata, Sr., who celebrates his 100th birthday on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Ascencion Mata, Sr. was born in 1921, in San Benito, Texas, the eighth child of the late Manuel and Isidora Mata. Ascension's parents instilled in him the values of religious devotion, honesty, resilience, and hard work at a young age, and his resilience pushed him to travel four miles every day to attend Sebastian Elementary School. While the pursuit of knowledge has always been a priority for Ascencion and his family, he was only able to receive a second-grade education. Although his academic time was cut short, his hardworking mindset propelled him forward as he spent his childhood on the farm and in the fields with his father to help provide for his family.

In 1937, when Ascencion was just sixteen years old, his father passed away, leaving his mother a widow and sole provider for him and his seven siblings. Ascencion continued to work to ensure his family persevered.

Ascencion married the love of his life, Eloise De La Rosa, in 1942. They were faithfully married for 53 years until Eloise's passing in 2003. Over the years, they were blessed with six children: Ascencion Mata Jr., Vincente Mata, Guadalupe Mata, Celia Mata Delgado, Roberto Mata, and Janie Linda Mata Cantu; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. As doting parents, Ascencion and Eloise created a nurturing environment built on a solid faith in their love for God that would become the moral foundation for their children, grandchildren, and a host of other family members throughout their lives.

In addition to being a committed family man, Ascencion is also a proud Veteran who served his country during World War II. After he was drafted, he was assigned to an Army base in Salt Lake City, Utah where he spent one month in basic training. He was then assigned to an Army base in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he received an additional eight months of training. After completion of his training Ascencion was sent to New York, where he was preparing to sail overseas to join the Armed Forces in Germany. However, on November 9, 1943, Ascencion was honorably discharged from the United Stated Army because he did not meet the Army's education requirement, which at the time was a sixth-grade education level. After he was discharged, Ascencion returned to his home in Sebastian, TX where he worked various jobs including managing a field crew, working at Alberti's Seafood Packing shed in Harlingen, Texas for about 12 years, and at La Feria Water Irrigation District for many years until his retirement. During that time, he purchased 20 acres of land near Santa Rosa, TX, that he and his family used to cultivate cotton and sorghum crops.

Today, Ascencion lives near Sebastian, where he continues to uphold the same values of resilience, faith, honesty, and hard work that have allowed him to live a long and fulfilling life with his family.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ascencion Mata, Sr., on 100 years of life, service, and dedication to his community and country, and wish him continued happiness surrounded by loved ones.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF WILLIAM HENRY LAWSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of William