

number of vaccinations given to Black Philadelphians and to reduce the vaccination disparity between White and Black Philadelphians.

Dr. Ala Stanford is the recipient of several awards including the Health Equality Advocate award, and she is a decorated and revered physician who is considered a champion for health equity and access. She is a native of North Philadelphia who pours her all into creating wellness outcomes for her communities. Her accolades are lengthy, and she's the first Black woman pediatric surgeon trained entirely in the United States. She's board certified by the American Board of Surgery in both pediatric and adult surgery.

With all her accomplishments and community work, Dr. Stanford has received a great deal of national media attention for her phenomenal work with the BDCC in providing care during the pandemic. Her work is regarded as a model for sound community health engagement. Assistant U.S. Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levin stated: "The Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium is such a fantastic example of how we're going to reach individuals in their communities with messages from people that they know and people that they trust—trusted messengers like Dr. Stanford."

The Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to the Black Doctors COVID-19 and Dr. Ala Stanford for their dedicated support and extraordinary service to the people of Philadelphia in their effort to provide testing and expand access and equitable distribution of the coronavirus vaccine.

HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN SAN ANTONIO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in San Antonio, Texas, and across the United States. Since 1977, every May, we celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of AAPI communities. Though a modest population, we have a vibrant community of AAPIs in San Antonio that contribute greatly to our city's prosperity.

Since 1860s, immigrants of Asian descent began migrating to Texas and Southwestern States and today the AAPI community account for 5 percent of the total population in Texas, and it's one of the fastest growing communities in the United States. Like many immigrants, Asian Americans were often unwelcome and suffered racism and discrimination. For example, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prohibited individuals arriving or staying in the United States solely based on their ethnicity.

Today, AAPI communities continue to face discrimination and even violence, which is often underreported. During COVID-19, hate crimes against AAPIs have grown exponentially and the community is still living in fear. In recognition of the continued threats that AAPI communities endure, Congress passed legislation that President Biden signed into law to ensure hate crimes against AAPIs are in-

vestigated and prosecuted. Our Nation must come together and work to address centuries of discrimination that impedes our Nation from its full promise of equality and justice for all.

Over the generations, AAPI communities have made significant contributions in the arts, government, business, medicine, and education. In San Antonio, our city is led by Ron Nirenberg, the city's first mayor of Asian descent. I'm also particularly proud of AAPI veterans, including 33 individuals who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and also AAPI men and women who serve our Nation in uniform.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for our Nation's AAPI communities, and I am proud to recognize their accomplishments. Thank you.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor each and every person who wears a uniform or has served in our country's Armed Forces and celebrate National Military Appreciation Month.

My home state of Hawaii is home to over 142,000 military members, family and support personnel, making it the largest and most important multi-service military 'ohana in the IndoPacific. We are deeply grateful to those who are regularly deployed to protect our Hawaii, along with the many more who are proud to volunteer their time, skills and abilities to the task of making our country and our world a better place for all.

Just as crucial to the fabric of Hawaii's military community is the more than 108,000 veterans who call Hawaii home. These men and women served with honor, and we must always ensure they are provided with the benefits they so rightfully earned and deserve.

I also want to extend my enduring gratitude to the families of our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and guardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

Freedom, justice equality—these are the values that the men and women of our Armed Forces are charged to preserve and protect. Each of us owes our very best efforts to ensure that America's servicemembers can defend our values. We must make sure they are mission-ready, with the training and equipment necessary to carry out their duties here in our country and overseas.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, I am dedicated to properly supporting our present military members and their families and fulfilling the promises made to our veterans. Their service deserves our nation's respect and recognition not just for this month—but every day.

Move forward with strength (Imua).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for votes on May 13, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 138, and NAY on Roll Call No. 141.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Federal Protective Service (FPS) in recognition of their service to our Nation. After passing the Capitol security bill in this Chamber earlier this week, it is only natural that we highlight the work of our protection agencies and their commitment to the Federal workforce. As a former law enforcement officer, I understand the pivotal role of security today more than ever. Following the U.S. Capitol attacks on January 6, we witnessed firsthand how important it is to have law enforcement agencies like FPS to protect our Federal facilities and workforce.

For half a century, FPS has served and protected the American people and government business with honor, integrity, and commitment. Since its inception in 1971, FPS has contributed to the protection of people and property in the Federal Government by identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities through risk assessments, law enforcement, intelligence analysis, and security measures. Two major acts of terror against the United States have shaped FPS to anticipate emerging threats more effectively: the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995, and the terror attacks on September 11. Today, FPS provides the Department of Homeland Security Secretary with a highly trained, nationwide force that can support needs in countering emerging or existing threats and terrorism, within the boundaries of our Nation and territories. It is also responsible for protecting over 9,000 facilities and more than 1.4 million people who work, visit, or conduct business at these facilities each day.

FPS has shown that it is a leader within the law enforcement and protection community. It is their work and dedication that brings us closer to the vision of a Federal workforce and workplace that is safe, secure, and resilient moving forward.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our Nation's most critical Federal agencies.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
MARY LOTT WALKER**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Mary Lott Walker of Blackshear, Georgia who passed away on May 12th at the age of 85.

Mary loved her city of Blackshear, her state of Georgia, and her country the United States of America devotedly.

After graduating from Georgia State College for Women, Mary began her influential career in public education.

Mary was also involved in politics, becoming the first woman in Blackshear to serve as Mayor pro-term. Through her work in Georgian education, politics, and historical preservation, Mary inspired young people to achieve greatness.

Above all, she devoted more than 67 years of membership and leadership to the Blackshear Presbyterian Church.

Mary's profound community impacts will be felt for generations to come.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and all who knew her during this most difficult time.

HONORING GOVERNOR CARLOS
ROMERO-BARCELÓ**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I rise concerning the passing of my long-time friend and a great leader, Carlos Romero-Barceló, former governor of Puerto Rico. Carlos passed away on May 2, 2021 at the age of 88. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, as well as those whose lives he impacted during his tenure.

Carlos Romero-Barceló was a timeless crusader for Puerto Rico. Throughout his life, he led the fight for equal recognition of Puerto Ricans, and I was especially proud to work with him while he served as the Resident Commissioner for the island in Congress.

Carlos lived a life of public service for Puerto Rico. He served as Mayor of San Juan and then as Governor before being elected to be Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico in 1992. He dedicated his life to achieve equal rights for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico. I was truly honored to know him and call him a friend.

I was proud to serve with him on the House Natural Resources Committee. There we worked together advocating for Puerto Rico, and I was proud to support his efforts to achieve equality for the U.S. Citizens of Puerto Rico. His tireless work deepened Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States, and I was proud to stand by him as a leader of the island.

We honor his legacy and mourn his loss alongside his family—his wife Kathleen, and his children Carlos, Andres, Juan Carlos, and Melinda—and our friends, the people of Puerto Rico.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.
RICHARD BATES**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Richard Bates, who passed away outside Washington, D.C., on December 31, 2020. He was a beloved husband, father, and community member.

Mr. Bates was born in Washington, D.C., on September 2, 1950 to Can and Sylvia Bates. In 1978, he married his best friend and the love of his life, Rose Bates. He served as executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee before joining the Walt Disney Company, where he worked for 30 years. He opened Disney's first Washington, D.C., office, and served as the Senior Vice President of Government Relations.

Richard's loved ones, friends, and colleagues remember him for his compassion, sense of humor, and kindness. He was a passionate advocate for the creative industries and was well-respected for his skill and knowledge in his field. In 2018, he was elected to the board of trustees of an advocacy organization fighting for free speech and working in communications policy issues, the Media Institute. Most importantly, he was dedicated to his friends and family, and inspired those around him to do what they love and follow their dreams.

Richard is survived by his wife, Rose; two sons, Ricky (Noelle) and Chris; brother, Robert (Judith); and other relatives. He will also be missed by his canine-granddaughter, Betty.

HONORING IRIS TUN AS IOWAN OF
THE WEEK**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of our community, Iris Tun, by naming her for Iowan of the Week.

Iris is a co-founder and a family advocate at the Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC) of Iowa, which is Iowa's first and only refugee-led service provider that strives to address shared issues and uplift all refugee communities.

Refugees from Burma began arriving in Iowa in 2007 and 2008 as a priority class of refugees, part of the nearly 1.5 million refugees that have fled Burma since the early 1960s. EMBARC was created in 2012 to help these new refugees settle into Iowa. At first, Iris helped the team provide resources and videos translated from English to Burmese and Karen, but their operation has since expanded.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, EMBARC Iowa got to work creating videos and informational resources about the COVID-19 virus and aid that was available in 13 different languages to help those who had lost jobs, facing eviction and struggling with virtual schooling. Over the past year, more than 8,000 refugees and immigrants have re-

ceived support from EMBARC and RISE AmeriCorps members—95 percent of whom were essential workers.

When Iris is not making videos for EMBARC Iowa, she translates voter registration forms at her church for free. In Iowa, it's illegal for the state to translate official government forms, including election forms, which makes it hard for non-fluent English speakers to collect voting information.

As we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it's important to note the difficulties the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities still face here in America. This week, the House passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act to highlight the increased violence Asian American and Pacific Islanders have encountered since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Iris's work is vital to putting an end to these hate crimes because her work as a translator allows folks to communicate and better understand each other. That's why I would like my colleagues to rise with me and recognize this exemplary woman, Iris Tun, as our Iowan of the Week.

CONGRATULATING MASTER SERGEANT
LOUIS C. GRAZIANO ON HIS DECREE AND MEDAL AS A
CHEVALIER IN THE 'ORDRE NATIONAL
DE LA LÉGIION D'HONNEUR'**HON. JODY B. HICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Master Sergeant Luciano "Louis" C. Graziano, a resident of the Tenth Congressional District of Georgia and the last known surviving witness to the German surrender of World War II. His story is truly incredible, and his contribution during his tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Europe is worthy of our nation's everlasting gratitude.

On June 6, 1944, D-Day, Louis was aboard a landing craft with his men and landed upon the sands of Omaha Beach in Normandy France. Once beached, Louis drove a truck full of gasoline onto the sand. With no place to go, he abandoned the vehicle and gathered his weapons to get into the fight. He took up a position at the base of a cliff and fired a burst from a flame thrower to take out a German machinegun nest.

But, Madam Speaker, further up the cliff were even more enemy machinegun nests. In quick thinking, Louis took a flare gun and fired a flare into those positions hoping to direct the fire of allied ships cruising just off the beach. The gun crews on the ships responded as hoped, unleashing their fire from larger caliber guns destroying those positions beyond.

Advancing beyond the shores of Normandy, the French city of St. Lo and Reims were soon liberated. It was in Reims that Louis's skill in his craft would come into play and eventually afford him a seat to history itself. Upon establishment of a command post within the heavily mined city, Louis was ordered to install General Eisenhower's phone line. This phone line was vital for the General's real time communication, helping to bring about a timelier allied victory.