

## CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to join my fellow members of the Equality Caucus in celebrating Pride Month and the progress our country has made in securing equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. As we recognize our progress, we must keep fighting because the LGBTQ+ community has yet to be granted full equality.

Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall Uprising, the now-famous targeting of the gay community at the Stonewall Inn by police in New York City in June 1969. In the subsequent four decades since Stonewall, LGBTQ+ individuals can serve openly in the military, same-sex couples can wed, and the Supreme Court has upheld certain federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Much work remains to be done. Transgender individuals still face high levels of violence. Federal, state, and local laws still allow many forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. And just last week in *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, the Supreme Court found that anti-LGBTQ+ religious objections can override a government agency's policies to ensure equality. While the case focused on same-sex couples adopting children, it could have much broader ramifications.

For all these reasons, I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 5, the Equality Act, which extends anti-discrimination provisions in federal law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. I'm proud that the House passed this legislation on a bipartisan vote of 224 to 206 on February 25, 2021. I urge the Senate to take up this legislation and send it to the President's desk as soon as possible.

As we celebrate Pride Month, let us also remember the victims of anti-LGBTQ+ hate, mourn the loss of countless loved ones whose lives were lost in the battle against HIV/AIDS, and reaffirm our commitment to fighting for an America where all are equal, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation.

TRIBUTE TO SOJOURNER KINCAID ROLLE—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, of Santa Barbara, California.

It is community members like Sojourner that make Santa Barbara County special, and it is hard to put into words all of her contributions

to our community. She is a poet, playwright, environmental educator, and cultural and peace activist. She is known for her work raising awareness of our diverse cultural history throughout the county and is heavily involved as a guiding elder for Juneteenth Santa Barbara and Healing Justice Santa Barbara organizations.

In 2015 Sojourner was named Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara and served a two-year term. As a self-defined "public poet", she is invited to compose and present poems for numerous special occasions. She is a two-time recipient of the California Arts Council's Artist-in-Residence program and for nearly 30 years has led poetry workshops throughout the West Coast. Since 1997, she has engaged young poets through her "Song of Place Poetry Project" and her work with City at Peace, Speak for the Creeks, California Poets in the Schools, Poetry OutLoud, and the MLK Poetry and Essay Contest.

She is the author of seven books of poetry and six plays, and her poetry is published in across social media. Her arts reviews and commentaries have also appeared in local and regional publications. Sojourner is a truth teller. She exhumes our past stories and brings them to life as a reminder of where we have been and where we can go.

A founding member of Santa Barbara's Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Sojourner has also served with multiple Santa Barbara County organizations including the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, Santa Barbara NAACP, Santa Barbara Arts Council, the Fund for Santa Barbara Grantmaking Committee, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the UCSB Center for Black Studies Research.

Sojourner is the glue that connects community members. She holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice with emphasis in Juvenile Delinquency and a J.D., but she is a teacher at heart, always ready to teach and inspire the community at large. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds. I am honored to recognize Sojourner for her continued commitment to improving our community and the residents of Santa Barbara County. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, for her incredible service to her community.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR—ANTHONY AND MICHAEL ZEG

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, I had the honor to meet Anthony and Michael Zeg from Franklinville, New Jersey. Both Anthony and Michael were awarded their Eagle Scout rank this year, and I had the privilege of attending their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. In order to meet the rank of Eagle Scout, they must participate in community service for their Eagle Scout project. Anthony and Michael both completed their project at the American Legion Post in Atco, NJ where each of them spent over 100 hours repairing and painting the building. Anthony is a senior

in high school and is attending Gloucester County Institute of Technology studying HVAC and also interns for two different HVAC companies. Michael plans on attending college to study engineering and will be interning for an engineering company this summer. Both of these boys have a bright future ahead of them and I wish them nothing but success. God Bless Anthony and Michael and God Bless America.

## ROSE MARY JOHNSON

**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Rose Mary Johnson, a recently retired educator.

Ms. Johnson has led a life of service and true love of community. She has spent several successful years teaching and serving in administrative roles in schools around the region. Shortly after beginning her teaching career, Johnson enlisted in the United States Army Reserves. It was here that she completed and retired with 31 years of service at the rank of Master Sergeant and with an array of medals and honors for her service.

In 1994, Ms. Johnson ran for the Jennings School Board on the platform that children needed to receive breakfast at school. She was successfully elected and has now just completed her 27th and final year on the board. Jennings Junior High was recently renamed Johnson Jennings Junior high school in her honor.

Rose Mary has been recognized by countless organizations for her unyielding commitment to her community, and since retiring she has continued to volunteer in various capacities.

For these reasons and more, St. Louis and I offer our deepest congratulations and gratitude to Rose Mary for her years of service. St. Louis has been enriched because of your contributions.

HONORING RETIRING IU PRESIDENT MICHAEL McROBBIE

**HON. TREY HOLLINGSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, in honor of President Michael McRobbie's upcoming retirement from Indiana University, I am proud to recognize his outstanding record of leadership and service to higher education.

Serving nearly 14 years as president, McRobbie is among the country's longest-serving presidents of a public higher education institution, and his dedication to expanding IU's programs, its impact on students, and the University's greater influence around Indiana is nothing short of remarkable.

Throughout his tenure, President McRobbie has worked to ensure IU remained an academically competitive and excellent institution. Under his leadership, President McRobbie prioritized building curriculums that were highly responsive to the evolving needs of its students, the Hoosier state, and industries

around the world. To that end, over the last decade, IU has strengthened its position as a research powerhouse and invested in improving communities around the state.

President McRobbie's commitment to IU and also serving Hoosiers has made a lasting impact on all who have passed through the institution. His legacy will live on long past his retirement, and I know I join graduates, colleagues, and Hoosiers around the state in thanking President McRobbie for his service to IU.

RECOGNIZING MENDENHALL HIGH SCHOOL AS THE MISSISSIPPI 2020 SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the American College Application Campaign (ACAC), which is part of the ACT's Center for Equity in Learning, is a national effort to increase the number of first-generation college students and students from low-income families pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential. About 3.7 million students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia have been served, submitting nearly 6 million college applications since the campaign's inception in 2005.

ACAC gives a School of Excellence award for each state, and I'm proud to recognize Mendenhall High School as the 2020 School of Excellence award winner for Mississippi. Mendenhall High School was selected "based on its demonstrated commitment to student success, timely submission of data, and serving as an exemplary model for our state's application campaign," according to ACAC.

As its selection for this prestigious award demonstrates, Mendenhall High School creates unique opportunities that have positive and lasting impacts on the lives of its students. Because of the hard work of teachers, staff, and administration, Mendenhall High School students are better equipped to pursue higher education or become leaders in their communities out of high school.

I am personally thankful for Mendenhall High School's efforts, as I believe the education of our youth, who are the future leaders of our state and country, is a crucial component of our society. I congratulate Mendenhall High School once more on being selected for this outstanding award and encourage the school's administration to continue this wonderful work, which is having such a meaningful impact on the lives of young men and women.

CONGRATULATING THE PROSPECT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the many

family, friends, and community members gathered to add my congratulations to the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, Connecticut as they mark the 75th Anniversary of this very special organization.

Incorporated on September 11, 1945, the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department was founded and continues today as an all-volunteer effort. Over the course of its history, the department has grown and re-shaped itself to meet the changing needs of the community, but at its core has always been dedicated members of the community answering the call and living up to their motto—"neighbors helping neighbors." Indeed, many of those who volunteer today are 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generations of the Department's original members.

And it is not just their volunteer efforts when it comes to combatting fires. From the dollars raised to buy their first fire truck to the construction of the Department's first building, to their most recent equipment purchases, the Department and its volunteer members depend more on the generosity of their neighbors and their community than they do on the annual town budget. As their written history accounts, "from the first dances at the old Chapel School House, through suppers, fireworks sales, "dollar a month club", Clyde Beatty Circus, and Carnival, the department has earned its own way. While a small amount of the expenses has been born by the town, fire coverage to equal that furnished by the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department would have cost the town thousands of dollars."

It is that spirit and deep sense of community that is what makes the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department such a unique and special organization. As the Prospect community gathers today to celebrate this wonderful achievement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have dedicated not only their time, but their lives, to the safety of all Prospect residents. Firefighters face risks that many of us can never truly comprehend. Each day they must be able to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Whether hosing down flames, rescuing a child from a burning house, or waiting for our call, firefighters are always there to protect us and provide us with the peace of mind we need to sleep at night. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment they have made to our community. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Today's celebration marks the 75th Anniversary of the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department. The courage and dedication demonstrated each day by these men and women is reflective of the true spirit in which the department was established. I am indeed proud to rise today to extend my thanks for what they do each day, and congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment.

ABSECON DOG SHOW

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize a group of innovative children in

South Jersey who thought of and started the Absecon Dog Show. In 2018, Grace Marzick came up with the idea to create a dog show for mixed breeds. Grace then told her friend Zoey about her idea, so Zoey decided to form a committee with a group of their friends. On May 23rd, they held their 3rd annual dog show. Grace, Zoey, and their friends went around town and received sponsorships from local businesses to help fund the event. They even made posters and hung them up all over Absecon in South Jersey to advertise the event. This year's event had the largest turnout with 51 dogs making an appearance in the show. All of the proceeds raised from the Absecon Dog Show are donated to the Humane Society of Atlantic County. For their first event in 2018 they raised \$600, in 2019 they raised \$2,100 and so far this year they have raised \$2,500. These students are remarkable, running this event solely by themselves. This group of extraordinary students have a bright future ahead of them and I commend them on their dedication and community service. God Bless Grace, Zoey, and their friends, and God Bless America.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MILT PETERSON

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember Milton V. Peterson of Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Peterson passed away on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the age of 85 surrounded by his family. The founder of Peterson Cos., Mr. Peterson will long be remembered for his outsized impact on developing numerous major projects across the Washington, D.C. region. He developed some of the most successful and award-winning mixed-use retail, residential and office developments in Northern Virginia. In addition to being a visionary developer, Peterson and his wife, Carolyn established the Peterson Family Foundation, donating more than \$100 million to area charities.

Mr. Peterson was a thoughtful, hardworking, and passionate individual who greatly contributed to countless lives in Northern Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask you to rise with me in memory of Mr. Milt Peterson. He will be profoundly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2021*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2021, I missed Roll Call vote 180. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on H.R. 2062.