

RECOGNIZING THE 2021 NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT PTA ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the 2021 Northern Virginia District PTA Annual Award recipients. Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) in Northern Virginia serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents 225 school PTAs representing 5 school divisions. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs that excel in this mission, as well as the volunteers and educators who support them. It is my honor to include in the RECORD their names:

2021 NOVA District PTA Elementary Volunteers of the Year Honorees: Rebecca Stebbins, Camelot ES PTA; Erin Anderson, Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus PTA; Jen Blackford, Little Run ES PTA.

2021 NOVA District PTA Secondary Volunteers of the Year Honorees: Shirley Alexander, Kilmer MS PTA; Samantha Mulvaney, Mark Twain MS PTA; Sherry Nachnani, Mount Vernon High School PTSA.

2021 NOVA District PTA Outstanding Educator and Staff Member of the Year Honorees: Ann Jopke, Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus PTA, Educator; Charlotte Quigley, Little Run ES PTA, Educator; Marion Hawthorne, Arlington Science Focus School PTA, School Counselor; Brittany Belscher, Little Run ES PTA, School Counselor.

2021 NOVA District PTA Excellence in Communications Award Honorees: Jennifer King, Laurel Ridge ES PTA; Andrea Kramer, Thoreau MS PTA; Monique Roberts-Rabil, Oakton HS PTSA; Kara Jenkins, Fairfax County Council PTA.

2021 NOVA District PTA Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Honorees: Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School PTA; Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy PTA; Union Mill ES PTA.

2021 NOVA District PTA STEM/STEAM PTA of the Year Award Honorees: Arlington Science Focus School PTA; Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus PTA.

2021 NOVA District PTA Excellence in Outstanding PTA of the Year Award Honorees: Camelot ES PTA; Great Falls ES PTA; Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus PTA; Laurel Ridge ES PTA; Union Mill ES PTA; Mount Vernon High School PTSA.

2021 New PTA Charter: Innovation ES PTA, Arlington County.

Congratulations to NOVA District PTA Students earning 2021 National PTA Reflections Awards for this year's theme "I Matter Because. . .": Claire Moon, Outstanding Interpretation, Visual Arts, Rachel Carson MS PTA; Julia Drolet, Award of Merit, Visual Arts, Wolftrap ES PTA; Manya Yellepeddy, Award of Excellence, Dance Choreography, Rachel Carson MS PTA; Isabelle "Trini" Rogando,

Award of Excellence, Literature, Thomas Jefferson HSST PTSA; Charles Nguyen, Award of Excellence, Literature, Special Artist, Lake Braddock SS PTSA; Jake Sizemore, Award of Excellence, Music Composition, Special Artist, Lake Braddock SS PTSA.

A special note of appreciation for dedicated service during 2020-2021 is extended to Hamid Munir, NOVA District Director; Debbie Kilpatrick, Assistant Director; Jason Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer; Julie Shepard, Advocacy Chair; Mary Gauvin, Communications Chair; Mike Woltz, Diversity, Outreach, and Inclusion Chair; Tony Shivers, Education Chair; Denise Bolton, Programs Chair; Martha Coleman, Events Coordinator; Patricia Franck, Special Projects Chair; Kara Jenkins, Fairfax County Council PTA President; Emily Vincent, Arlington County Council PTA President; Bill Pfister, Alexandria City Council PTA President; Pam Croom, Virginia PTA President; and Anna King, National PTA 57th President.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the individuals, PTAs and PTSAs that are being honored. Dedicated involvement from so many reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated members and volunteers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM O'HALLERAN**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on July 20, 2021, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Recommit for H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act. Had I been present, I would have voted against the Motion to Recommit.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHILLIP JAMES DeVRIES II ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Phillip James DeVries II on his retirement after 28 years of honorable service to our Nation. I stand with the people of West Michigan in recognizing the tremendous impact Lieutenant Colonel DeVries has had on our Nation and abroad.

Lieutenant Colonel DeVries began his service at West Point, where he was commissioned as Second lieutenant Field Artillery Officer. He then went on to become a Strategic Plans and Policies Officer in the United States Army, where he aided in strategizing and planning the future of the Army. Chosen for his dedication to international affairs, he also had the honor of attending the NATO Defense College, where he gained the experience to participate in multiple international assignments involving 22 countries. Lieutenant Colonel

DeVries was deployed four times throughout his career and faithfully served his country through strategic operations and on the ground.

Lieutenant Colonel Phillip DeVries truly is an American hero, and his service will have a lasting effect both nationally and internationally.

Madam Speaker, it is because of dedicated, honorable individuals such as Lieutenant Colonel Phillip James DeVries II that I am incredibly proud to serve Michigan's 2nd Congressional District. I join with those in West Michigan and around the globe in thanking Lieutenant Colonel DeVries for his many years of service and wish him a happy retirement.

KYLE FRANCIS LEAHY—EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Kyle Francis Leahy who has been a scout since he was six years old, and recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Kyle demonstrated his leadership skills when he designed and created an outdoor classroom for the Friends School in Mullica Hill, South Jersey. Because of the pandemic, Kyle had minimal assistance while he cleared an 800 foot wooded trail ending in an amphitheater sized classroom. This will allow future generations of students to learn in a natural outdoor environment. Kyle is currently a senior at Tower Hill School in Delaware and plans on attending the University of South Carolina in their Capstone Leadership Program. Kyle wants to study economics and political science and has the hope to attend law school once he graduates from college. I am proud of Kyle and his dedication to his community, and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes in the future. God Bless Kyle and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE 2021 EXCELLENCE IN SALES HONOREES PRESENTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2021 recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Woman in Sales Leadership Award, IES Member of the Year, and the Rising Star Award presented by the Institute for Excellence in Sales & Business Development (IES).

IES was created to foster excellence in business sales and development practices and to help sales professionals and organizations maximize their efforts. IES conducts a variety of workshops and programs designed to provide the knowledge and tools necessary to advance the careers and growth of those who attend. Each year, IES recognizes individuals, teams, and organizations throughout the

United States who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development.

The Sales Excellence awards seek to promote and advance corporate and organizational sales excellence by recognizing organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership and strategic vision in Enterprise Sales. These honorees will each respectfully fall into the award categories of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Woman in Sales Leadership Award, the Member of the Year Award, and the Rising Star Award.

The recipient of the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award is Ms. Toni Townes-Whitley, President, U.S. Regulated Industries, Microsoft. As president of U.S. Regulated Industries at Microsoft, Toni Townes-Whitley leads the U.S. sales strategy for driving digital transformation across customers and partners within the public sector and commercial regulated industries. Her organization is responsible for executing on Microsoft's industry strategy and go-to-market for both public sector and regulated industries in the United States, including Education, Financial Services, Government, and Healthcare. In addition to leading a sales organization, Townes-Whitley is helping to steer the company's work to address systemic racial injustice.

The recipient of the 5th Annual Women in Sales Executive Leadership Award is Ms. Courtney S. Bromley. Courtney S. Bromley has been with IBM for 31 years serving federal, state and local government agencies. In her current role she manages all the Federal Government (non-DOD/Intel) as well as the State and Local Government and Education markets across the United States as part of IBM's U.S. Federal and Public Sector Market. Her business units are responsible for IBM's cross brand execution with all the Federal, State and Local Agencies and Educational institutions including all IBM lines of business—hardware, software and services.

John Asher is the IES Member of the Year. John is the CEO of ASHER Strategies, a pre-eminent sales and marketing advisory services company. His team has trained more than 80,000 executives, salespeople and other customer facing managers in 22 developed countries over the past 19 years. His team has advised a number of Global Fortune 5000 companies including Goldman Sachs, General Dynamics, Alibaba, China Mobile and 1400 other small and medium sized companies. John is a graduate of United States Naval Academy with degrees in mathematics and nuclear engineering.

Veronica Poissant is the recipient of the IES Jay Nussbaum Rising Sales Star Award. Veronica Poissant is a Director of Inside Sales for the North American Public Sector at Red Hat, the world's leading provider of enterprise open source solutions. During her 12-year tenure at Red Hat, she has directly contributed to the strategic development of the public sector inside sales organization which has grown in size and scope by 500 percent.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Toni Townes-Whitley, Courtney S. Bromley, Veronica Poissant, and John Asher for their exceptional dedication and leadership within the business community.

MARJORIE HASS LEAVING RHODES COLLEGE

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish the best good fortune to a transformational educator, Dr. Marjorie Hass, who is leaving as President of Rhodes College in Memphis to become President of the Council of Independent Colleges, a Washington-based association of independent colleges and universities. There she will be a leading voice in national discussions of issues in higher education. In her four years at Rhodes, Dr. Hass has inspired the students, faculty and staff to maintain the stellar reputation it has gained over 173 years as one of the nation's top liberal arts institutions. Trained as a philosopher and guided by her Jewish faith, Dr. Hass has been a thoughtful decision maker as a college president, maintaining high standards in leadership development and academics. In the last four years, Rhodes has been named one of the nation's most innovative liberal arts colleges by U.S. News & World Report, a "best value" college by The Princeton Review, and Tennessee's best liberal arts college by Niche, the lifestyle and culture magazine. Dr. Hass taught philosophy for over a decade at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, where she also directed the Center for Ethics, and holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Illinois—Champaign-Urbana. Before coming to Muhlenberg College, Dr. Hass served as president of Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where she worked to ensure talented students could succeed regardless of their financial background. Dr. Hass is married to Dr. Lawrence Hass, a former philosophy professor and sleight-of-hand magician, and she has two grown children, Cameron and Jessica. After her contributions to Rhodes and to our city, I look forward to seeing Dr. Hass testifying before the education committees on Capitol Hill in her new leadership position and wish her the best in this new chapter of her life.

HONORING MR. MOHAMMAD  
HOSSEIN MEHRMAND

### HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mehrmand, a constituent of mine and a former Lieutenant-General of the Imperial Iranian Air Force. Prior to 1979, Iran, was a very different country than it is today. Iran and the United States were close friends and cooperated in both trade and military affairs.

Because of this close cooperation between our two nations, Iranian military officers like Mr. Mehrmand had the opportunity to visit U.S. military installations and work closely with American servicemembers to train on U.S.-built fighter jets that were operated by the Imperial Iranian Air Force.

While the Imperial Iranian Air Force operated a number of U.S. fighter jets, they were

the sole foreign operator of one aircraft, in particular, the F-14 Tomcat. As a result of this program, Khatami Air Base was constructed by the Iranian government near the city of Isfahan in the early 1970s to cater to their new fleet of F-14s with support facilities built specifically for the Grumman Corporation. In fact, the entire region around Isfahan was booming for the American defense industry with other defense contractors like Raytheon, Lockheed, Boeing and Hughes Aircraft working on lucrative projects for the Shah's government.

As a result of the massive presence of American enterprise in the region, Isfahan was home to at least 1,200 American military members and 8,000 civilian advisers at its peak in the mid-to-late 1970s. This presence could be felt quite evidently by the massive amount of new construction marketed towards the Americans working in the region.

All of this changed in 1979 as revolutionary fundamentalists began to take over Iran. At the time, there were over 5,000 Americans living in Iran with many residing around Khatami Air Base. As the situation in the country began to deteriorate, the U.S. Embassy in Iran advised all Americans to leave the country.

At the time, Lt. General Mehrmand was the tactical commander of the Imperial Iranian Air Force and he had received information that many within the Iranian military had begun to go rogue and side with the fundamentalist revolutionaries, with many of these rogue units attempting to prevent Americans from leaving Iran.

Lt. General Mehrmand took action on behalf of our citizens and met with the rogue units to successfully negotiate the American exodus from Iran. He additionally made arrangements to allow for twenty-five special American passenger planes to enter Iranian airspace to begin evacuating all Americans from Iran. As a direct result of his efforts, nearly 5,000 Americans were safely and successfully evacuated out of the collapsing country.

Within weeks of the evacuation flights, the Imperial Iranian government collapsed, and the fanatical government of Ayatollah Khomeini took over Iran. Under the new government, Lt. General Mehrmand was branded a traitor for securing the exodus of the American people and had his property, assets, and retirement pension confiscated. Fortunately, Mr. Mehrmand was able to escape persecution in Iran and found refuge here in the United States.

Mr. Mehrmand, despite not being an American citizen, had the boldness and courage to stand up against fanaticism in the name of freedom for the American people. Today, Mr. Mehrmand is 92 years old, and a proud American citizen living happily in California. I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize his patriotic actions and I want to express my profound gratitude to him for his service to our country and to our national interests.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERMEER MIDWEST

### HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Junior Kool of Eureka, Illinois,