

School, eight to the Sonoma Valley Boys & Girls Clubs, and many more throughout Northern California. They plan to continue providing vital equipment and screenings well into the future. On June 15, 2022, a 16-year-old boy at Sonoma Valley High School collapsed while playing basketball from sudden cardiac arrest. Thanks to the quick action of three friends and an AED provided by the Just1Mike Foundation, the boy is still alive today.

Madam Speaker, I thank Kristy and Bob Brindley for the great work of the Just1Mike Foundation. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

### HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month 2022. Each year from September 15 to October 15, we recognize and celebrate the history and culture of Americans whose ancestry can be traced from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. First established as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968, this observation was expanded to a full month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. This month-long period encapsulates many celebrations of independence for Latin American countries. September 15 is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18.

During this time, we uplift the stories of Latinos and celebrate their contributions to this country. Throughout history, Latinos have come to this nation in search of their own American Dream and the promise of a new life for themselves and their families. In every facet of American life, Latinos have made their mark on this country and created a more perfect union for us all. I am proud of their countless contributions to our country's story, and I would like to take this month to honor the crucial role that these Americans play in our society and in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District in particular. This year, I am honored to recognize Maritza Morelli, Belisa Urbina, and Pilar Valdez.

Maritza Morelli is the Executive Director of Los Niños Primero, a nonprofit organization focused on empowering Latino students and their families from early childhood to college through education and leadership programs. A native of Venezuela, Maritza earned a bachelor's degree in Special Education and a master's degree in Childhood Psychology from the University of Caracas. For seven years, she conducted research with the Venezuela Department of Education to examine the ways in which children learn to read and write. Her research study would go on to change the course of the National Scholastic Curriculum. She migrated to Atlanta, Georgia where she briefly worked as an interpreter for Northside Hospital in the department of mental health. She became the lead bilingual community liaison for Fulton County Schools, assisting Latino families in navigating the public school

system. In June 2001, Pastor Rick Sommers at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church asked her to lead a new project called Los Niños Primera. Over the last two decades, Maritza has grown the organization's capacity from serving 17 students to serving over 300 students and their families. Over the years, more than 3,000 students have completed the Los Niños Primero program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Los Niños Primera was able to expand their reach to serve over 13 counties across all programs as well as launch their LYRIC program to support Latino high school seniors in their pursuit of higher education and launch their COVID-19 Educational Campaign to equip and guide the community with bilingual materials to make educated choices for their families. They were even able to provide financial assistance to over 21 families through rental assistance.

Belisa Urbina is the Chief Executive Officer of Ser Familia, Incorporated. Belisa was born and raised in Puerto Rico where she studied Business Administration at the University of Puerto Rico. Belisa and her husband Miguel lived in Puerto Rico until 1999 when they decided to move to Atlanta, Georgia. As a young couple in a new city, Belisa and her husband witnessed the challenges that Latino couples were facing with conflict resolution and navigating married life as they adapted to a new culture. As a result, in 2001 Belisa and her husband decided to co-found Ser Familia (previously known as Renovacion Conyugal, Inc.) as a program that aimed to strengthen Latino couples and families through couples workshops. Over the years, they identified a need for additional programs to support families by taking a more holistic approach. Under Belisa's leadership, Ser Familia has developed the "Ser Familia Model" that focuses on delivering coordinated social and mental health services to families they serve through a multidisciplinary team led by a case manager and supported by counselors, psychiatrists, parenting educators, couples program facilitators, youth mentors, domestic violence advocates, and immigration attorneys. Ser Familia's reach has expanded to serve over 6,900 clients per year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ser Familia was essential in addressing the mental health needs of the Latino community as they completed thousands of mental health assessments and provided rental assistance to those families who were most affected by COVID-19.

Pilar Valdez is currently the Program Director of the Early Learning Program and After School K-5 Academy at Corners Academy. Pilar is a proud Georgia native born to Mexican parents. She earned her bachelor's degree in Health Science from Georgia State University and has over 8 years of experience in childcare. She has dedicated her career to the development of these two early childhood development programs and has become an advocate for her students and their families. In fact, after successfully leading the After School K-5 Academy, Pilar developed the Early Learning Program at Corners Outreach, working to educate parents on how to become their child's best and first teacher in order to prepare these children for a successful academic life after kindergarten. During 2021, at a time when COVID placed a spotlight on education gaps in the community, Pilar was able to lead and guide the Early Learning Academy through a 26 percent increase in registration,

and the Corners Academy tutoring program offered tutoring to 100 new students and offered in-person summer camp to more than 196 students.

The impact of these three women alone is tremendous, and it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize and honor them for working so hard to make a difference in the lives of others here in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District. As we continue to celebrate the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month, may we recommit ourselves to the spirit of service demonstrated by these individuals and the many others whose stories have yet to be told. On behalf of myself, the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to join in the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. In telling the stories of community members like Maritza, Belisa, and Pilar, we celebrate the power of our Latino community in Georgia. As a representative of our state, I will continue to champion their values of strength, service, and patriotism every day.

### HONORING BERNIE WAGONER AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly honor Bernie Wagoner as Iowan of the Week. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a commitment to serving her community. As the co-founder and Clinical Director for Southwest Iowa Families in Clarinda, Iowa, Bernie has served countless people in need of assistance throughout my district.

Bernie has a clear track record of serving others. While in junior high, Bernie's grandmother was hospitalized with a psychiatric condition, and that experience motivated Bernie to pursue a degree in Psychology from the University of Nebraska. Moving to Iowa after that, she was employed in intellectual disability and mental health services before founding Southwest Iowa Families as a non-profit in 1993. Bernie saw a need for a non-profit that could provide permanency and benefit the community more than a traditional private practice.

Over almost 30 years, Southwest Iowa Families has strived to ensure that community needs were being met. Bernie has always stressed the importance of available and affordable rural mental health services. Out-patient mental health care and counseling have been a staple of Southwest Iowa Families since its inception. Over the years, Bernie has helped ensure that the mission evolved to meet the needs of the Southwest Iowa community. Seeing a need for the development of services for vulnerable 0- to 5-year-old children, in 2010 the Agency achieved Healthy Families of America accreditation for Southwest Iowa Families—which was an intense process and qualified the organization to interact with and directly assist parents and children at risk of abuse and neglect. Thanks to the constancy of Southwest Iowa Families, Bernie has started to see young parents visit who the organization first met as young children. The organization also accepts and distributes various donations of clothing and furniture to then distribute to in need families and

continues to be willing to evolve based on community needs.

Bernie, along with her fellow staff at Southwest Iowa Families, has been leading the way for the construction of a new base of operations for the non-profit. The new center in Clarinda is in the final stages of planning and will increase the number of available counseling rooms as well as provide a larger waiting room to effectively manage adult clients and their children. With this development, Bernie looks forward to being able to expand their staff and providing more services needed in the community.

Bernie tells us that 1 in 5 individuals will have a mental health issue that needs professional attention at some point in their lives. Reliable mental health services in rural areas are critical to ensure that anyone who needs help has access to treatment. Mental health services such as Southwest Iowa Families ensure that rural communities remain great places to live and work. Bernie Wagener's extensive work for the Southwest Iowa community has been incredibly valuable, and I am proud to name her Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE FIRST  
CLASS MELVIN J. LITTLE BEAR

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor, and welcome home Private First Class Melvin J. Little Bear of Standing Rock, South Dakota.

PFC Little Bear entered the U.S. Army from South Dakota and served with Battery A, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division in the Korean War. He was captured by Chinese Communist Forces on February 13, 1951, as his unit made a fighting withdrawal from Changbong-ni to Wonju, South Korea. PFC Little Bear was marched to POW Camp 1 at Changsong, where he died of malnutrition, exhaustion, and pneumonia on July 21, 1951. During Operation GLORY, the United Nations Command and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exchanged the remains of war dead, including those who had died in captivity. In September of 1954, as part of this operation, the D.P.R.K. returned to the United States a box containing PFC Little Bear's remains from Changsong. PFC Little Bear could not be identified at the time and his remains, designated X-14251, were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 16, 1956. In 2020, his remains were disinterred from the NMCP and sent to the DPAA Laboratory for scientific testing. Laboratory analysis led to the identification of PFC Little Bear from among these remains.

PFC Little Bear was posthumously awarded the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. PFC Little Bear will be laid to rest on September 30th, in Little Eagle, South Dakota.

Madam Speaker, PFC Little Bear made the ultimate sacrifice for this Nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring his memory

and his service. Currently over 80,000 Americans are listed as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. It is a blessing that by reuniting PFC Little Bear with his family and his people, today that number is smaller by one.

HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF  
JOSEPH SCHIAVONI

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Schiavoni, a Deputy Sheriff II with the Napa County Sheriffs Office. I have named Mr. Schiavoni as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in California's 5th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Mr. Schiavoni graduated from Vacaville Christian High School in 2012 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and Justice Studies from Humboldt State University in 2016. In March 2020, he joined the Napa County Sheriffs Office as a Deputy Sheriff Trainee. Following successful completion of Basic Academy at the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Training Center, he was designated a Deputy Sheriff I in October 2020. Five months later, Mr. Schiavoni was promoted to Deputy Sheriff II and assigned to the Marine Patrol Division at Lake Berryessa.

On June 17, 2022, Mr. Schiavoni was informed of numerous 911 calls regarding a pregnant woman whose legs had been severely injured by a prop blade. Joined by Deputy Brian Ringo, he quickly arrived on scene and found the victim in critical condition aboard the involved vessel. Observing that the vessel, a two-story pontoon boat, did not offer easy access for connection, Mr. Schiavoni guided the boat towards him and secured a connection via the patrol vessel's gunwale. After he received critical medical aid from Deputy Ringo, the two men carried the victim aboard their vessel and brought her to the shoreline where a California Highway Patrol helicopter was standing by. The flight medic later reported that the careful and rapid extraction of the victim saved both her life and the life of her unborn child.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Mr. Schiavoni is an exemplary civil servant whose determination and skill in the face of an extremely stressful incident is emblematic of his dedication to others. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today:

HONORING BORICUACTIVATED

**HON. DWIGHT EVANS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate BoricuActivatEd on 5 years of training the next generation of advocates.

BoricuActivatEd founded by a former Congressional staffer, Jennice Fuentes, is a civic engagement non-profit working with adults of

all ages, other non-profits and community organizations from coast to coast to help empower communities of color. In fact, what they do is very simple and straightforward: they help people know how to speak to elected officials just like us. Most of our constituents may even be intimidated at the prospect of approaching our staff, our offices and each one of us in Congress. But BoricuActivatEd, deconstructs the process for our communities. They help folks understand the ABCs of how to engage with elected officials with the respect and authority and command of the request that is needed.

BoricuActivatEd works with everyone who cares about building a better and more democratic society, from high school students to retirees. This year, for the second year in a row, BoricuActivatEd continued its series of trainings for high school students at the Esperanza Academy Charter School in Philadelphia, where my Chief of Staff was able to meet with some of these students and see firsthand how powerful the BoricuActivatEd training can be.

BoricuActivatEd is changing lives and our democracy for the better. Congratulations on 5 years. We are looking forward to many more.

COLUMBUS 2022 INDIANA  
COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

**HON. GREG PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my hometown of Columbus on being named 2022 Indiana Community of the Year.

A town of 50,000, our flourishing manufacturing and agriculture industry community is home to some of the top automotive, electronics and aerospace development.

From Cummins Engine Company to Columbus Regional Health, Ivy Tech and Hoosier Transport—our Midwest city is the epitome of Hoosier hospitality.

I am proud to say that to this day and all my life, I am a Columbus resident. While I may be biased, I believe it is one of the communities that makes Indiana's Sixth Congressional District so great.

Much of this can be contributed to the leadership of the city and county, and especially Mayor Lienhoop.

Congratulations to Columbus on being named 2022 Indiana Community of The Year.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF BOBBY  
WELLIVER OF BOONVILLE

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2022*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Missouri's finest, Police Chief Bobby Welliver. After serving for more than three decades, Chief Welliver announced his retirement from the Boonville Police Department in Missouri's Fourth Congressional District. Residents of Boonville have long benefited from Chief Welliver's selfless commitment to serve and protect, and his steady leadership will be missed.