

dedicated his time to the historic shipyard, from his first job to his role as secretary, treasurer, vice executive director, executive director, and tour guide.

In 1945, Bill enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 and was assigned as a submariner to the USS *Sea Owl*, a ship he was familiar with as he had worked on the *Sea Owl's* construction in Portsmouth. Bill continued his service in Key West, Florida operating a recommissioned U-2513 German U-boat, an experience that made him one of the few members of the U.S. Navy qualified to operate both U.S. submarines and German U-boats.

Bill's continued service to the oldest active shipyard in the Nation has ensured that it both functions as an effective repair station for our military's submarines as well as a historic landmark in Portsmouth. The shipyard's Heritage Center contains many pieces of naval history, including the launching cage used to christen the 1938 USS *Squalus*, a piece that Bill tracked down himself.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate Bill for 78 years of service and thank him for his outstanding contributions to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and our Nation.

HONORING CORY SMITH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cory Smith, a Firefighter Paramedic with South Lake County Fire and CAL FIRE in Cobb, California. I have named Mr. Smith as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County in California's 5th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Mr. Smith has dedicated years of faithful service to his community, both as a paramedic and Fire Marshal with Lake County Fire as well as a volunteer Fire Captain with the South Lake County Fire Protection District.

In August 2021, Mr. Smith showed great initiative and assisted in the safe evacuation of multiple civilians as a member of Prevention 715 (Lake County Fire Protection District). Arriving at the Cache Fire in Clearlake, Mr. Smith and his team worked with two engine companies from CALFIRE to remove fences and clear paths. During this assignment, they discovered two individuals in immediate danger from nearby flames. Upon safe evacuation to their engine, the firefighters found severe burns on one woman and radioed for a medical unit to transport her to a nearby hospital.

When Mr. Smith is not fighting fires, he is a dedicated husband and father who enjoys spending time with his wife and three kids.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Mr. Smith is an exemplary civil servant who represents the very best of our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

VISIT AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of my legislation to strengthen the U.S. travel and tourism industry at a time when it is needed most.

Las Vegas welcomes nearly 43 million visitors annually from around the world. My Visit America Act will ensure tourism is at the table when we consider national economic policy.

Currently, the United States is the only member of the G20 that does not have a Cabinet-level or equivalent position focused on tourism.

My bill creates an Assistant Secretary position at the Department of Commerce specifically charged with strengthening the United States travel and tourism industry. This department will work with other agencies to coordinate a comprehensive tourism strategy and help position cities like Las Vegas to serve as hosts for large meetings, conferences, and exhibitions.

Having a position at the Department of Commerce to oversee travel and tourism will not only help insulate Southern Nevada's regional economy from future economic shocks but also better position the U.S. travel economy in the age of global competitiveness.

I look forward to working with the new Assistant Secretary to bolster our hospitality industry and let the world know the U.S. is a great place to visit, to work, and to play.

HONORING THE COMMODORE SLOAT CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Commodore Sloat Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, as it celebrates a century of dedication to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for our children.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded on October 11, 1890, during a time marked by a renewed sense of patriotism and intense interest in the beginnings of the United States of America. It was founded by women wanting to express their patriotic feelings and perpetuate the memory of our ancestors who fought to make this country free and independent.

The Commodore Sloat Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was organized on September 29, 1922, in the city of Pacific Grove, California. Originally named the Pacific Grove Chapter, it was renamed the Commodore Sloat Chapter on September 19, 1934, to commemorate the contributions of Commodore John Drake Sloat, who led the Battle of Monterey and established California as part of the United States of America.

The Commodore Sloat Chapter's 117 members actively support the national objective of historic preservation, education, and patriotism through national, state, and local activities. Their educational efforts include the hosting of an American history essay contest, the Good Citizen awards, and youth luncheons. Understanding the importance of patriotism, the chapter supports the Central Coast's veterans, active-duty military members, and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, as well as participates in Monterey's Fourth of July Parade. The Chapter routinely recognizes and honors local members of our community for their contributions to the preservation of American history. Notably, "Sloat's Landing" is celebrated annually in Monterey, where Sloat's Proclamation is read.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the century-long efforts of the Commodore Sloat Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution and their invaluable contributions to the Central Coast. It is therefore fitting and proper we honor them here today.

RECOGNIZING MS. GERALDINE S. KILSDONK

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in recognition of Ms. Geri Kilsdonk, a spirited resident of Plymouth, Michigan, who has dedicated herself to numerous causes that benefit Michigan's 11th District. Ms. Kilsdonk has made an immense impact on the lives of those around her, and I am thrilled to join the community in celebrating Ms. Kilsdonk for her many contributions to her fellow Americans.

In 1943, Ms. Geri Kilsdonk was born to Mr. Joseph Flinn and Ms. Loretta Flinn. Her father was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, as a "milk man" in Illinois, while her mother worked hard raising Geri and her two brothers and two sisters at their home in Evanston, Illinois. Geri was prepared for her life of service through her Catholic School education, instilling in her values that guided her through her adult life and activism.

In 1968, Geri Kilsdonk married John Kilsdonk, beginning their 33-year marriage. The couple made Southeast Michigan their home after departing Illinois. Taking advantage of an FHA loan, the Kilsdonks submitted a \$2,000 down payment on their first Michigan house, making Dearborn Heights, Michigan their new community. Like many in Metropolitan Detroit, the family made their living by working in the automotive industry. Ms. Kilsdonk was proud of her husband's 33-year career at Ford Motor Company, eventually earning him an executive-level position. In 1974, the family chose the Northville/Plymouth area as their permanent residence. Because Their daughter, Susanne, began kindergarten in the Northville public schools and graduated from Madonna University.

A new chapter began with the passing of Geri's husband, John, in September of 2001. Geri bravely delivered her husband's eulogy before returning to what she did best, advocating for a better society. As a member of an

automotive family, Geri understood the importance of the industry to the lives of many of her neighbors. During the 2008 automotive financial crisis, Geri lost the healthcare coverage she earned as a surviving spouse of a Ford retiree. Geri knew that her neighbors were also feeling the strain from the struggling automotive industry, so she created her own script and called her neighbors to discuss these important issues and urge them to take action through civic participation.

Described as a “doer” by those who know her, Geri donates immense amounts of time to the causes that she values. She has supported Ronald McDonald House Charities for many years, along with contributions to the arts and culture through her support of the Plymouth Historical Museum and the Penn theater. Geri’s impact extends to education, as well, having created nursing scholarships for future medical professionals and part of the Schoolcraft College Foundation. Many in Michigan’s 11th District and across the state have benefitted from expanded educational opportunities, gained access to critical services, and engaged with the vibrant cultural experiences that have been supported by Ms. Kilsdonk.

Madam Speaker, Geri continues to bring about positive change to Michigan’s 11th District with her ongoing contributions to civics, health, and the arts. Please join me in thanking Geri for her commitment to strengthening our communities.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF
FORMER DIRECTOR OF CASE-
WORK AND CONSTITUENT SERV-
ICES ELLIE LABOTTE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the work of Ellie LaBotte, my former Director of Casework and Constituent Services in Rock Island, Illinois.

Ellie was the very first intern to be hired in my district office, and due to her exceptional work, was hired as a Constituent Advocate before she even graduated college. She quickly moved up to Senior Constituent Advocate and was later promoted to Director of Constituent Services. In our office Ellie handled Veterans and Department of Defense casework, and was instrumental in identifying issues with the Department of Veterans Affairs on the ground. She also ran our robust intern program in Illinois, maintaining strong ties to many former interns and assisting them in their future careers.

Ellie was responsible for getting military medals for many constituents. However, the one that meant the most to her and was a major casework achievement, was getting a Prisoner of War Medal for Richard Holmquist, who earned this during his service in the Korean War, and had previously fought in World War II. I had the great pleasure of presenting the award to his son, Paul Holmquist, during a prominent medals ceremony with participation from the Deputy Commanding General of First Army at the Rock Island Arsenal. During her time in the office, Ellie successfully closed nearly 2,000 cases and has made a significant

difference in the lives of countless constituents.

It is because of dedicated and impactful leaders such as my former Director of Casework and Constituent Services, Ellie LaBotte, that I am especially proud to serve Illinois’ 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally celebrate the amazing work of Ellie LaBotte.

RECOGNITION OF DON GEDDIS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Don Geddis upon the occasion of his being named Citizen of the Year for 2022 by the Associated Parents’ Group of Hillsborough. His service to our community is so enormous that I think of Don as being one of the towering eucalyptus trees that populate the town . . . without, of course, all the shedding bark.

When Don’s children entered Hillsborough schools in 2006, he immediately took a leadership role by joining the School Site Council, placing him on the West Parent Group executive board. For many years he was a highly qualified judge of the West iLab Tech Challenge, bringing his PhD in artificial intelligence and computer science from Stanford to bear on the work product of student tinkerers. He also served for two years as the West Parent Group’s trustee representative, giving him extensive exposure to the operations of the school board.

Don took the plunge and ran for school board in 2013. He has served every year since, four times as board president. He combines this volunteer job with service on the recreation commission, a joint powers authority between the school district and the town of Hillsborough. He also serves as trustee liaison to the Associated Parents’ Group.

The pandemic hit every school district hard, and every district scrambled to create remote work. The biggest challenge, however, was the creation of a back-to-school safety plan. Don and the District Core Return to School team created testing and other protocols that permitted Hillsborough schools to be one of the first in the state to return to full-time, in-person instruction. As a major leader in the town, Don explained the plan to countless parents and advocated for it at the board. He located testing solutions and helped plan the district’s testing policy. The students and parents of Hillsborough will be forever grateful to Don for his dedication to education and to public health.

Measure H was a \$140 million school facilities bond measure that recently passed due in no small part to Don’s leadership. It paves the way for modern schools in Hillsborough for decades to come. As a school board member, he’s also served on the board’s negotiation team, mentored new trustees, and been active in the San Mateo County School Boards Association.

Don is not all about work or even civic endeavors. If you visit his website, you’ll immediately see a list of 18 major life accomplishments, starting with his bachelor’s in computer science at Stanford and ending with his cur-

rent status as a board member and recreation commissioner.

However, arrayed below that list is another list of “Completed Bets.” For example, in 2015 he apparently bet on whether then-Judge Kavanaugh would be appointed to the Supreme Court. He lost a buck. In the 2017 match between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Conor McGregor, he bet \$10 and won. He’s obviously a better boxing fan than reader of Senate tea leaves. Between 2002 and 2020 he bet 34 times on various events paying out donuts (2019) or that dollar, and winning lobster or truffles. Altogether, he’s won 21 times, had one draw and there’s one bet still outstanding (fusion power, 100MW+ in 20 years from 2018). His site also lists his four other current websites and five previous websites, including one that he says was a joke.

As this list demonstrates, Don is a brainiac, but I can honestly state that he’s one of the most personable, and earnest, people that I’ve ever met. In case you doubt his driven nature, he participates in both Aiki and Brazilian Jiu-jitsu and has third-degree black belts in both forms of martial arts. As the holder of a brown belt in judo, the conclusion that I draw from his website is that you probably come out better betting cash with Don, and losing, than fighting him and losing.

Despite Don being something of a rocket scientist by nature, he is about as down to earth as they come. For this and many more reasons he will always be an honored resident of our community, and it is my honor to note his contributions to America in today’s record of the proceedings of the House of Representatives. Congratulations to Don, his wife Laura and their family on his remarkable achievements. His neighbors and countless friends are betting he’ll be a leader for many more years to come. We’re not going to lose that bet.

HONORING ADA LIMÓN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ada Limón. In recognition of her outstanding work as a poet, Ms. Limón has been selected by the Library of Congress as this year’s Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, making her the 24th individual to receive this coveted position.

Ms. Limón was born and raised in Sonoma County, California to a family of educators and artists. She graduated from Sonoma Valley High School in 1993 and attended the University of Washington. Ms. Limón then earned a Master of Fine Arts degree at New York University. She now lives with her husband in Lexington, Kentucky.

During her career, Ms. Limón has published 6 books and maintained a faculty position at Queens University of Charlotte. Some of her work includes *Sharks in the Rivers* (2010), *Bright Dead Things* (2015), and *The Hurting Kind* (2022). Currently, she is in the process of writing her seventh book, titled *Beast: An Anthology of Animal Poems*.

She has received several awards for her work, including the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Chicago Literary Award for Poetry. Ms. Limón also has a podcast titled “The