

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 SER-
VICES 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

Slowdown”, which serves a platform for her to raise awareness of poetry.

Nature is a key component and source of inspiration for Ms. Limón’s poetry. She speaks often of the influence of landscape in her work and how her surroundings impact the poetry that she creates. Additionally, Ms. Limón focuses on the structure of her poetry and how it is conveyed through speech.

As the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, Ms. Limón will be tasked with promoting poetry throughout the United States from October 2022 to May 2023. Following the precedent of other laureates before her, Ms. Limón will create a project of her choosing and take steps to complete that project throughout her time in the position.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Ms. Limón has left a tremendous impact on both her community and the United States through her work as a poet. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING FEMALE LEADERS
WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS
HONORING AS CHRISTIAN
WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and highlight the work of some extraordinary female leaders in our country who are being honored by She Leads America as “Christian Women of Distinction.”

For my constituents back in Michigan, I try and lead by example through my faith and commitment to public service. But many times, people don’t look to Washington for their role models. Fortunately, it does not take long to find others guided by their strong moral compass, faith, and commitment to selfless public service. Today, I honor some of these women, who through their tireless dedication, have shattered glass ceilings and touched the lives of countless individuals around the world. For my part, I remain committed to defending reli-

gious freedom here in Congress to ensure each of these women, and all of my constituents, never have to compromise their religious beliefs in order to conform to whatever the trending culture is at the moment.

One of these women, Kathleen Cooke, is a leading figure in the entertainment industry, who along with her husband Phil, co-founded the Cooke Media Group where she oversees casting and creative development. They also founded the Influence Lab, a nonprofit that internationally mentors leaders on the use of media. Among her other endeavors, Kathleen is an actress and member of the Screen Actors Guild, adjunct professor at Biola University, founder of the Christian Women in Media Association’s Hollywood chapter, and national advisory board member for the Salvation Army.

Madam Speaker, I hope these women, such as Kathleen, know full well the impact they have had on countless lives. These women are trailblazers, and the example they have set will be followed by people of my district, and many other Americans, for years to come. I thank each of them for their passion and commitment. This honor is well-deserved.