

of change and uplift the over 388 million women and girls living in poverty around the world.

As in past years, the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization Pioneer Awards recognize and honor distinguished women who are leaders and innovators across multiple fields with inspiring accomplishments. This year's honorees include:

Janice Bryant Howroyd—Founder and CEO of The ActOne Group of Companies—Business Pioneer

Lele Pons—Celebrity Influencer, NFT and Crypto Enthusiast, 100 million Followers—Influencer Pioneer

Beverly Johnson—Iconic Supermodel—Model Pioneer

Wendy Fisher—Artist, President of the Board of Trustees of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation—Art Pioneer

Neeti Mehta—Co-Founder and Chief Impact Officer of Automation Anywhere—Technology Pioneer

Amanda Feilding—Countess of Wemyss and March, Founder of the Beckley Foundation, and Psychedelics Pioneer—Science Pioneer

Mitzi Perdue—Founder of CERES Farms, Philanthropist, and Anti-Human Trafficking Advocate—Philanthropy Pioneer

Coco Rocha—Founder of the Coco Rocha Model Camp and Supermodel—Fashion Pioneer

Marta Belcher—Chair of the Filecoin Foundation and General Council and Head of Policy for Protocol Labs—Web3 Pioneer

Madam Speaker, I urge the entire House to recognize these role models, and to celebrate Women's Entrepreneurship Day this year.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NOTRE DAME ACADEMY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2022*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Notre Dame Academy Boys Cross Country Team for winning their first Division 2 State Championship Title.

On Saturday, October 29th, the Notre Dame Boys Cross Country Team traveled to the Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids to compete in the 2022 Wisconsin State Cross Country Championships. After an incredible season by both the Boys and Girls teams the Boys successfully secured the state title.

This state title is a remarkable achievement as the team has secured runner-up finishes in three of the last four seasons. Following a season full of hard work and determination, the Boys Cross Country Team has achieved greatness and will be remembered by the Green Bay community for years to come. Led by Isaac Nowak, who took fourth place and Joseph Stumpf, who took twentieth overall in the race this team was able to surpass the previous runner-up finishes. With the help of great runners Braeden Tilot, Joseph Hunt, Jackson Fogarty, Bryce Hawley, and Federrico Auricchio they were able to accomplish their

goal of a State Title. I commend them all for an outstanding performance at the state championships.

Achieving the title of State Champion is a testament to the hard work and dedication that the coaches and athletes display every day of the season. Finishing at State with 81 points to secure the win, the Notre Dame Boys Cross Country team has shown consistent improvement and I wish them nothing but the best in seasons to come.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Head Coach Gard and the entire Notre Dame Cross Country team for this outstanding accomplishment. It is my honor to recognize these young men and I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their unwavering commitment and dedication to their sport.

#### INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY REPORT ON MYANMAR

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2022*

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the International Parliamentary Inquiry into the global response to the crisis in Myanmar. Therefore, I include in the RECORD the executive summary of our final report.

#### “TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE”: THE FAILED INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE MYANMAR COUP (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

Since the Myanmar military staged a coup on 1 February 2021, the situation in the country has steadily deteriorated. The military junta, led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, has waged a brutal war of attrition against its own people, committing countless atrocities and ruining the country's economy. Military forces have killed at least 2,371 people and displaced hundreds of thousands, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons in the country to over 1.3 million. The junta has also jailed more than 15,000 political prisoners and made routine use of torture against those arrested, all while launching a far-reaching crackdown on freedoms of expression and association, including an intense repression of independent media and civil society.

Nevertheless, the people of Myanmar have resisted. The massive peaceful demonstrations in the coup's immediate aftermath, as well as the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) that saw hundreds of thousands join a general strike, including throughout the bureaucracy, demonstrated the population's overwhelming rejection of a return to military rule. The coup has also inspired an unprecedented level of unity among those opposed to the military, including across ethnic lines.

In April 2021, the National Unity Government (NUG) of Myanmar was formed, bringing together parliamentarians ousted in the coup, ethnic minority representatives and civil society actors. The NUG rightly claims a mandate as the legitimate representative of the Myanmar people. It enjoys widespread popular legitimacy and support, especially in the country's heartland, and represents the most inclusive government in Myanmar's history. The NUG has expressed a commitment to establishing a new constitution and a genuine federal democracy in Myanmar, which would represent a major step toward

fulfilling the aspirations for autonomy of the country's ethnic minorities.

The junta's attempts to subdue the resistance with extreme violence failed dramatically, and only served to exacerbate existing tensions and drive some anti-junta activists to turn to armed struggle to defend themselves. Anti-military militia groups known as people's defense forces (PDFs)—some under the command of the NUG—have been established across the country, including in areas that had been relatively peaceful before. The coup has also triggered a new wave of violence between the military and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), which have been fighting for autonomy for decades in the country's borderlands. Some of these EAOs, such as the armed wings of the Karen National Union (KNU) and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), have allied themselves with the NUG. Not all EAOs have formally joined the anti-military struggle, as Myanmar's political landscape remains extremely complex and fractured.

The escalating violence has precipitated the near collapse of the economy and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Myanmar's GDP has dropped 13 percent since 2019, and 40 percent of the country's population now lives below the national poverty line. Despite the increased needs, humanitarian actors have struggled to reach vulnerable and remote populations, as the military has placed severe limitations on humanitarian access.

The international community has proven largely unable to respond effectively to the crisis. The junta's international allies—most prominently Russia and China—have emerged as steadfast and uncritical supporters, supplying both weapons and legitimacy to an otherwise isolated regime. Foreign governments that profess support for democracy have not backed up their rhetoric with the same force of action, however. While a number of countries have imposed sanctions targeting junta leaders and their personal assets, these efforts remain uncoordinated and have failed to successfully target key revenue-generating entities, such as the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE). The United Nations has been particularly hampered by internal divisions and has proved to be unable to project influence. The NUG has attracted supporters globally and continues to occupy Myanmar's seat at the UN, but most governments have been hesitant to formally recognize it, despite calls from parliaments and advocates to do so.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Myanmar is a member, has been similarly plagued by internal divisions and unable to respond effectively. The bloc's “Five-Point Consensus,” signed in April 2021 and aimed at addressing the crisis, has utterly failed, hampered by a lack of will on the part of all ASEAN member-states to enforce it, and a military leadership in Myanmar that did not show any intention of implementing it from the beginning. While some member-states, such as Malaysia, have called for a new approach, including direct engagement with the NUG and other pro-democracy forces, others, including Thailand or Cambodia, have persisted as junta enablers.

As Myanmar slides into civil war, the possibility for a negotiated solution to the conflict has all but closed completely. The dialogue prescribed in ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus is impossible under the current conditions. Responsibility lies with the junta, which has shown no willingness to engage with those who oppose it and has instead relied exclusively on brute force in its attempt to stamp out any opposition. The execution of four political prisoners in July 2022, the

country's first judicial execution since 1988, highlighted both the military's brutality and its complete disinterest in negotiations. The coup brought the previous power-sharing arrangement with the civilian leadership to an unceremonious end. Now the vast majority of the Myanmar people have expressed a clear desire not to return to the status quo ante.

Nineteen months after the coup, the military junta has been unable to consolidate its power. Wide swaths of Myanmar's territory are contested between the military and forces associated with the NUG or EAOs, and it can be stated that the coup has failed. In areas along the Thai border, EAOs like the KNU and the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) are working together, providing basic services to the population, and showing what a future Myanmar, in which different groups cooperate rather than fight amongst themselves, could look like if the country is able to shake off the tyranny of the military.

As Myanmar's future hangs in the balance, external pressure on the military and support for the resistance may well be the deciding factor in the course of the conflict. The international community can, and should, do more to help the Myanmar people to send the military to the barracks and establish a federal democracy. It should start with substantially increasing its efforts to address the worsening humanitarian crisis, intensifying its pressure on the illegal junta through coordinated sanctions and arms embargoes, and recognizing the NUG as the legitimate authority in Myanmar. The NUG, as well as aligned EAOs, should be provided with funding and capacity building programs on governance and federalism. But action should be taken urgently. As Khin Ohmar, Myanmar activist and Chair of Progressive Voice said during one of the IPI oral hearings, "time is not our side".

#### RECOGNIZING STATE REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT SANFORD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and salute State Representative Scott Sanford, a steadfast leader who has faithfully served the constituents of Texas' House District 70 over the past decade.

A proud Texas native, Mr. Sanford earned his Bachelor and Masters degrees from Baylor University prior to beginning his career as a certified public accountant. In 1997, Scott heeded a new calling by joining the ministry at Cottonwood Creek Church in Allen, Texas, where he currently serves as the Executive Pastor.

In 2012, Sanford undertook a new mission of service after being elected to Texas House District 70, which encompasses the rapidly growing Collin County cities of McKinney, Melissa, Celina, Prosper, Anna, Princeton, and Weston.

During his time in the Texas Legislature, he has proudly held the positions of Texas GOP Caucus Policy Chair during the 86th and 87th Legislative Sessions and also served as the Chairman of the Texas Prayer Caucus. Notable past committee assignments include the House Public Education Committee, Health & Human Services Committee, Urban Affairs

Committee, Land & Resource Management Committee, Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committee, and the Corrections Committee. Rep. Sanford also currently serves on the prestigious Ways & Means Committee, Insurance Committee, and the House Administration Committee.

His proudest legislative achievements include the Pastor Protection Act, the Bonton Farms Act, the Don't Pass the Trash Bill, and the Freedom to Worship Act. For his many efforts, he was recognized by Texas Values as a "Faith & Family Champion," by Texas CASA with the "Big Voices for Little Texans" Award, and by the Texas Conservative Coalition as a "Courageous Conservative."

Representative Sanford's deep commitment to his community and constituents is evidenced by his work as a member of the board for Smiles Charity and Collin County Meals on Wheels, as a member of the Rotary Club of McKinney and the McKinney Chamber of Commerce, and as a mentor to students in McKinney Independent School District through the REACH program.

Representative Sanford has truly fostered a tremendous legacy of servant leadership. Now as he prepares to begin a new season of life alongside his wife, Shelly, it is with gratitude that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his many contributions throughout his career in public service while wishing him and his family all the best in this next chapter.

#### RECOGNIZING COLIN CARR

##### HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with mixed emotions as I recognize the incredible contributions made to my office, and this body, by a dedicated member of my staff. Mr. Colin Carr was one of the first to join my office in 2015 when I was a newly elected member of Congress. At that time, Colin came onboard as my first Legislative Correspondent, where he excelled. I quickly recognized not only his talents, critical thinking, and grasp of the issues, but also his keen interest and in-depth knowledge of legislative policy, especially in economics and the financial services realm. As a result, he was soon promoted to Legislative Assistant and then to Legislative Director.

Colin's deep interest in the financial services sector proved to be crucial in 2017 when I joined the House Financial Services Committee. As my legislative liaison on the Financial Services Committee, Colin not only helped me to navigate the complexity of issues, but he also inspired new legislative initiatives. Colin led the effort to pass several bills in the financial services sector, as well as those of specific importance to the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District. Two of the bills Colin helped champion were eventually signed into law by the President, the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Boundary Act and the Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams (BUILD) Act. Colin's natural aptitude and thorough understanding of the vital aspects of our financial systems are surpassed only by his vigilant commitment to his faith, his family, and

our country. He is a wonderful role model for young Americans willing to work hard to be the best at what they do.

Colin is leaving the House of Representatives to take a job in the private sector. As Colin steps into the next part of his journey, he will be greatly missed as a leader on our team but will always remain a member of our office family. We will carry a sense of pride in knowing that he will undoubtedly build on the foundation established over his years of service in the House of Representatives. I am blessed to have had such a dedicated and motivated member of my team; and, while I am happy for the success that awaits him in the private sector, he will be greatly missed by me, my office, and many others in the House of Representatives.

I thank Colin for his service, and God speed.

#### STRENGTHENING VA CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

##### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7299, the Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to the Department of Defense, cyber criminals target victims in order to weaken U.S. supply chains, threaten national security, and endanger the American way of life.

Although cyberattacks can potentially harm all Americans, attacks against veterans are especially problematic because of the vast population of veterans and the amount of data that is maintained about their service and benefits.

In the United States, there are an estimated 18.5 million veterans.

Currently, there are 1.2 million active-duty military members and 778,000 reserve forces. More than half of active-duty personnel have family member dependents.

Because there are so many veterans—and future veterans—the data systems that manage their service records, salaries, health conditions, and benefits provided to them and their families must be maintained securely and insulated from risk of being exposed, corrupted, deleted, or held for ransom.

Just as veterans have served America, protecting our safety and freedoms, it is vital that we protect veterans when they complete their service, start a new chapter of their life, and depend on our government to protect their personal information and privacy.

The Department of Veterans Affairs stores important material such as social security numbers, health records, financial information, and more. It is the Department's responsibility to protect and preserve veterans' data for future use and needs that the veterans may have.

In 1973, a firestorm at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri