

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful nation, I want to thank these veterans for their service to our country and congratulate them on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2022.

RECOGNIZING RANDY J. HOWE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Randy J. Howe on his retirement after 34 years spent protecting our nation's borders. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Howe for his service to our great nation.

After graduating from Niagara University in 1988, Mr. Howe joined the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Diego, California. He went on to work for the newly established U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), where he held various leadership positions, including Preclearance Director, Buffalo Area Port Director, Executive Director of Operations at the CBP Headquarters, and eventually Director of Field Operations for the Laredo Field Office.

As a native of Laredo, Texas, and a strong supporter of our law enforcement agencies along the border, I know just how demanding Mr. Howe's job can be. He and his colleagues are on the front lines of the battle against the importation of illicit drugs and human smuggling. His work is also critical to supporting trade and unlocking supply chains across North America.

Mr. Howe is responsible for operation and enforcement activities at eight international ports of entry that span 450 miles in South Texas. He leads over 3,300 dedicated officers across 18 international crossings, eight airports, three rail crossings, two dams, a sea-port, and a ferry. He also leads the Machinery Center of Excellence, which manages 37 partner accounts, incorporating 191 importers of records representing some of the nation's largest corporations.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Howe's family. He and his wife, Athina, are celebrating 30 years of marriage. His children have followed in their father's footsteps to serve the public good: his son, Mackenzie, is also a CBP officer, and his daughter, Angelina, is a registered nurse.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas and on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to congratulate Mr. Howe on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his decades of service. I wish him the best in the next chapter of his life.

COMMENDING PAUL E. FISHER

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the life of my fellow North Carolinian, Paul E. Fisher. Mr. Fisher was the driving force behind F&M Financial Corporation and F&M Bank for almost 60 years. He was

a tireless community leader and volunteer until his passing on October 30, 2020.

As Chairman and CEO of F&M Bank, Mr. Fisher believed that community banking offered an opportunity to improve the quality of life for all his clients and the communities he was privileged to serve. He volunteered on the NC Banking Commission for a decade and was President and Treasurer of the NC Banking Association, in addition to serving two terms as Dean of the NC School of Banking.

Forever tied to the success of F&M Bank, Mr. Fisher was better known for his warm heart and decades of local fundraising efforts to build the Saleeby-Fisher YMCA, The Rowan County Chamber of Commerce's Gateway Building, the Rowan Helping Ministries homeless shelter, the Bell Tower Green Park, as well as a myriad of other facilities and causes ranging from the arts, healthcare, human needs, and youth. He always wanted to leave the world a little better than he found it. His drive to plant a tree under whose shade he will never sit was his most telling attribute.

Over his nearly 83 years, Mr. Fisher had a very simple recipe for life: show up, find a way to be useful, and love with all your heart. He was grateful for the friendship and love shown to him by the people of Rowan County, the State of North Carolina, and all those who helped him along life's path.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to commend Mr. Paul E. Fisher of F&M Bank and Salisbury, North Carolina for a lifetime of service to his community.

RECOGNIZING THE COLORADO
MUSIC INSTITUTE

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Colorado Music Institute (CMI) in Centennial, Colorado for being recognized as the 2022 National Music School of the Year by the Music Academy Success System.

Founded in 1996, CMI has been at the forefront of the music community in the state of Colorado. CMI has been steadfast in its commitment to teaching students of all ages—believing people are never too old to pick up an instrument and try a new skill. Their reach extends far beyond Colorado—as students from all over the world seek out lessons there.

This year, music schools around the nation worked to regain their rhythm with a return to predominantly in-person learning. Bringing music and joy to the community, CMI has a diverse staff from all over the world cultivating and developing students' musical talent and establishing the foundation for a lifelong love of music. CMI believes that music should be all about joy, therefore aiming to be Colorado's most fun, welcoming, and professional music school.

The National Music School of the Year award is presented annually to a school that has made significant contributions to the music industry. Hundreds of schools around the country compete for this highly prestigious award.

Teachers have a tremendous impact on the lives of their students no matter the age. I

commend CMI for their tireless dedication to their students, and congratulate them for receiving this recognition. It is an honor to recognize CMI and their achievements.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN P.
DAILEY, P.E., GENERAL MAN-
AGER OF THE FAIRFAX DRAIN-
AGE DISTRICT OF WYANDOTTE
COUNTY

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen P. Dailey, Professional Engineer and General Manager of the Fairfax Drainage District of Wyandotte County for his exemplary professional accomplishments.

Mr. Dailey's career in public service began after graduating from the University of Missouri—Kansas City with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and becoming licensed as a professional engineer. He spent 14 years in the municipal well drilling industry prior to his time at Fairfax Drainage District.

Throughout Mr. Dailey's 30-year tenure as General Manager, he was responsible for protecting investments amounting to nearly \$6 billion in a 2,000-acre industrial park. He oversaw preparations and guided flood control operations for multiple record-breaking high-water events, a highlight that only begins to scratch the surface of three decades working in honorable service to Kansas.

Beyond supervising operation and maintenance of the district's complex flood projection system comprised of 5 miles of levee, over 100 relief wells, 12 pump stations and a computerized communications network, Mr. Dailey spent 27 years serving on the Fairfax Industrial Association Board of Directors and over 15 years as an active board member and committee chair of the Missouri and Associated Rivers Coalition, promoting water resource management for effective flood control and navigation works.

I've also had the pleasure of working with Mr. Dailey while in Congress. Last year, I had the pleasure of sponsoring community project funding to perform maintenance of the Fairfax Jersey Creek Upper Levee. I commend Mr. Dailey for his dedication to our state and to our country, and the 120-plus businesses in the Kansas City, Kansas community he has tirelessly worked to support and protect.

HONORING MARY WADE AS IOWAN
OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to name Mary Wade of Red Oak, Iowa as Iowan of the Week. Mary is a lifelong Iowan who has worked with Nishna Productions for 37 years improving the wellbeing of individuals with disabilities across Southwest Iowa. Mary's dedicated work developing life and job skills for those in need deserves recognition.

Mary began working for Nishna Productions when she was 19 years old, serving as Activity Coordinator and as direct care staff. Mary helped her Nishna Productions clients learn how to cook, clean, and manage money. Mary then became a supervisor at the group homes in Red Oak where she led the staff and continued to work in direct care with the clients. Mary's help growing the skills of her clients ensured that individuals with disabilities can retain independence and find success living in their communities.

Mary then transferred back to work as a Program Instructor with Nishna Productions. Working directly with clients, Mary began to teach classes developing important life skills. From there, Mary transferred to the vocational department to focus on the development of employable skills. Nishna Productions has its own laundry service in which clients can develop working skills, while Nishna Productions also contracts with small businesses to fulfill their basic labor needs. By supporting individuals with disabilities in a comfortable environment, Mary has helped grow confidence with those who need it the most.

Currently, Mary is the lead supervisory staff member at Nishna Production's Red Oak and Shenandoah sites. While she now leads over-all day to day operations, Mary still finds the most enjoyment in direct work with clients. Mary believes that each client is their own unique person and that a one size fits all approach would be ineffective. Providing unique care for each client takes a full team effort, and Mary and her team at Nishna Productions remain committed to tailoring their programming and operations to fit each individual person and the needs of the community.

I am thankful to Mary for her work empowering individuals with support and opportunity to meet their goals, and I am proud to name Mary Wade as Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAHAM

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate United States Marine Corps Second Lieutenant John Graham, who recently completed USMC Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia. John was an exceptional member of my staff for the past two years before leaving for Quantico. While we were sad when he departed, we were extremely proud he was going to become a Marine Corps officer. We always want to support our United States Marine Corps and we know that John will be upholding their finest traditions.

HONORING STEVEN METLER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Steven Metler

in recognition of his dedicated service as a Constituent Service Representative in my Vallejo District Office.

Mr. Metler was born in Vallejo, California and grew up in American Canyon. He attended Solano Community College before enrolling in California State University, Sacramento, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government in 2016. It was also during this time that he trained in German and spent six months at the Europa-Universität Flensburg studying International Political Economy.

After gaining valuable experience in the customer service industry, and rising to Department Manager of the Napa Walmart, Mr. Metler began his career in public service as an intern in my Napa district office. In this role, Mr. Metler communicated with constituents, helped organize and execute our events, and supported district staff with numerous state and national issues.

In 2020, he joined the staff of Assembly member Cecilia Aguiar Curry as a Field Representative where he liaised with government agencies and continued to assist the people of Napa. Mr. Metler served as a substitute teacher with the Napa Unified School District before he rejoined our team as a Constituent Service Representative in our Napa District Office before transferring to our Vallejo District Office.

As a Constituent Service Representative, Mr. Metler has successfully assisted with over 230 constituent requests ranging from wildfire assistance to passport applications. He has routinely gone above and beyond in his duties, ensuring that our events are well executed and that no constituent is left without the support they deserve. Because of his dedication, Mr. Metler recently won our casework hero award which honors the staff person in our district offices who did the most outstanding job with casework that quarter.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Metler for his hard work, enthusiasm and enduring commitment to the people of California's 5th District. He has been an exemplary member of our staff and a valuable asset to his community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF GREGORY D. COUNTRYMAN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband and father, trailblazing Law Enforcement Officer and public servant, Sheriff Gregory D. Countryman. Sheriff Countryman was honored as the Community Service Person of the Year by the Controllers Civic and Social Club in Columbus, Georgia on December 3, 2022.

Born in Plains, Georgia, Countryman's family moved to Columbus, Georgia when his father was assigned to Fort Benning. He is a product of the Muscogee County School System, graduating from Baker High School in 1984. Although he struggled in his early life to overcome a learning disability, this challenge did not deter him from seeking higher education. He would go on to earn an impressive collection of degrees, including an Associate's

Degree from Georgia Military College; a Bachelor of Science Degree from Troy State University; a Master of Public Administration Degree from Columbus State University; a Master of Arts in Practical Theology from Ohio Christian University and, finally, a Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Counseling from Saint Thomas Christian University.

Countryman has been a dedicated public servant who has consistently gone above and beyond for the people of the Chattahoochee Valley region. He has dutifully served his community for thirty years as a highly respected law enforcement professional. As a Deputy in the Muscogee County Sheriffs Department, he served in the bureaus of Field services, Court Services, and the Fugitives and Jail Divisions. In 2004, he was elected to serve as the Marshal of Muscogee County, and he would go on to serve three terms.

As Marshal, Countryman was a visionary leader for law enforcement officials in Muscogee County and the state of Georgia. Desiring to improve public safety services beyond his community, he founded the Georgia Marshal Training Network, a non-profit organization to provide education and training to Marshals across the state and served as president of the organization. He believes that education is the passport to the future, and the future belongs to those who prepare for it today. With that vision in mind, he created the Junior Marshal Program for Middle School students which mentored and instilled within them the essential values of citizenship, leadership, education, fun, and teamwork. Since 2005, the Junior Marshal Program worked with nearly 2,000 young people, building lasting relationships between law enforcement and future generations, and making Muscogee County a safer place to live.

In 2020, Marshal Gregory Countryman made history by becoming the first African American to be elected Sheriff of Muscogee County, Georgia. After serving his community faithfully and effectively for over two decades, the people of Muscogee elected him sheriff with nearly 75 percent of the vote, demonstrating great trust in his ability to fairly enforce the laws and make our community safer.

It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Sheriff Countryman has paid his rent and he has paid it well. In addition to serving as the top law enforcement official for the second largest city in the state, he has given dedicated service to various organizations in his community to include Omega Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Electric City Masonic Lodge No. 322; the Georgia Marshal Training Network; American Legion 267 (SAL Member); the Fraternal Order of Police; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; the Police Benevolent Association and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

Knowing that public safety is a crucial and everchanging field, Sheriff Countryman has not rested on his laurels and has always tried to stay on the cutting edge of Law Enforcement Training and initiatives. He is a graduate of the Georgia Regional Command College Class No. 26, attended the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (L.E.E.D.S) training, and served as a former Assistant Adjunct Professor at Georgia Military College where he helped effectively train new prospective recruits in the field of law enforcement.