

longtime friend, Henry Vincent Ford. Vince, as he was affectionately known, transitioned from this life on December 6, 2022, in Columbia, South Carolina. His work fighting for equity in historically underserved communities has left an indelible mark on the Midlands of South Carolina.

Vince Ford was born on March 18, 1958, in Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from A.C. Flora High School and went on to pursue a bachelor's degree at Benedict College in Columbia. He received a master's degree from my alma mater, South Carolina State University. Vince dedicated his life to bettering the Columbia community and Midlands' area, and I was fortunate to get to know Vince well throughout his service to his county and state.

In 1992, Vince was elected to the Richland One School Board. During his nearly quarter century tenure on the Board, he served as chairman a remarkable eight times. Vince was a fierce advocate for children. He led the charge on a bond referendum which led to both the improvement and building of several school buildings. He also spearheaded the vote to create a tax increment financing district which would lead to the creation of important community projects, such as EdVenture Children's Museum, Three Rivers Greenway, and Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

In 1997, at the same time of his service on the School Board, Vince was invited to establish and lead the Office of Community Health at Prisma Health. Throughout his time there, he fought for the needs of the community's uninsured and medically underserved. After his retirement from the School Board in 2016, he officially became the Vice President of Community Affairs at Prisma Health. He was a faithful advocate of community health through his work with Prisma for over 25 years. He was fully committed to tackling disparities in health treatment in the Midlands, impacting the lives of countless people.

Through his community leadership, Vince earned several awards and accolades. For his time on the School Board, he was named Outstanding School Board Member for the Sixth Congressional District and All-State School Board Member by the South Carolina School Boards Association. In 2018, he was inducted into the Richland One Hall of Fame. He was also recognized on the Columbia Housing Authority Wall of Fame and received the Elaine Whitelaw Volunteer Service Award from the March of Dimes. The programs he led were also recognized for their success, with his program for drug and alcohol school prevention earning national recognition.

Vince was also an active member of several civic and social organizations in the community. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation. In addition, he served as chairperson on the State Education and the Columbia Branch Education committees. He was a proud and very active supporter of Benedict College throughout his life and was a member of its Board of Trustees. He was also a lifelong member of the NAACP and a fellow brother of Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

Vince is survived by his wife, Patricia, and their two children, Marcus and Robyn.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Vince Ford. His unwavering commitment to serving his community should be an inspira-

tion to us all. He will be sorely missed and well-remembered by all who had the honor of knowing him.

HONORING MAJOR PETE TRAYLOR UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Pete Traylor of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Pete Traylor epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Pete Traylor of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a vote I missed on December 8, 2022. I was on my way to the House Floor to cast my vote when the vote was closed with 75 members not having voted. Had I been present for Roll Call vote 515 on the motion to adjourn offered by Rep. ROY, I would have voted no. I believe that it is essential that Congress finish the business it came here to do this week and pass the National Defense Authorization Act to support our service members and their families.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER JOHN
C. MOORE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor councilmember John Moore in honor of nearly a decade of service to the Cotati City Council.

Mr. Moore was born in Lynn, Massachusetts to Gloria and Edmund Moore. After attending Indian Valley Community College and Santa Rosa Junior College, he ran his own insurance brokerage for 15 years. Mr. Moore was elected Cotati Chamber of Commerce President in 1999 and awarded Cotati citizen of the year in 2005.

In 2013, Mr. Moore was appointed to the Cotati City Council and was subsequently re-elected in 2014 and 2018. During this time, he served multiple terms as both Vice Mayor and Mayor. Mr. Moore has also been Chair of the Cotati Rent Appeals Board, Liaison for the Cotati Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Cotati Library Advisory Board and a board member of the Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund as well as the California Intergovernmental Risk Authority.

Despite unprecedented challenges including wildfires, financial instability and the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Moore has remained steadfast in his commitment to Cotati. He has routinely fought for improved public infrastructure and a balanced budget. As a delegate for the North Bay Labor Council and the District Bargaining Unit Representative for the Service Employees International Union Local 1000, Mr. Moore has also been a champion for workers' rights.

Outside of public service, Mr. Moore is an executive with the Rohnert Park branch of the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

He is the proud husband of Lisa, father of Richard, Rachel and Riley and brother of ten.

Madam Speaker, I thank Councilmember Moore for his years of selfless service and commitment to his community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable, and I missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 501; NAY on Roll Call No. 502; NAY on Roll Call No. 503; YEA on Roll Call No. 504; YEA on Roll Call No. 505; YEA on Roll Call No. 506; YEA on Roll Call No. 507; YEA on Roll Call No. 508; YEA on Roll Call No. 509; YEA on Roll Call No. 510; YEA on Roll Call No. 511; and NAY on Roll Call No. 512.

HONORING MAJOR DOMINICK
VITALE UPON RECEIVING THE
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Dominick Vitale of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Dominick Vitale epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Dominick Vitale of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
THOMAS KAYSER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. Thomas Kayser, of Saint Paul, Minnesota, who passed away on November 15, 2022.

Tom was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force. After graduating from Lawrence University, he served on active duty for eight years and as a reserve officer for 16 years, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He met his wife, Marlene Kayser, on a blind date, they married in 1959 and had three children, Carol, Tom and David. In 1966 they moved to Saint Paul when Tom joined the law firm, Robins, Davis and Lyons, where he worked for over 50 years and went on to become the managing partner. During his time at the law firm, which eventually became Robins, Kaplan, Miller, and Ciresi, he often served as a volunteer attorney, including for the Minnesota ACLU, and received many honors, in-

cluding being named Volunteer of the Year by the Volunteer Lawyers Network in 2007.

Tom and his wife, Marlene, who passed away in 2018, were both dedicated activists and volunteers in the community, supporting organizations like Planned Parenthood and the Advocates for Human Rights. They were also founding donors of Admission Possible, now known as College Possible, which is a national organization working to increase access to higher education for low-income students. At the Kayser family home the door was always open to generously give back to their neighbors. They were known for hosting fundraising events in their home and even in their backyard for nonprofit organizations, candidates and elected officials ranging from United States presidents to school board members. Tom and Marlene served as a host family to many international students and connected countless community leaders, and Tom also served as a board member and advisor for the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy, and as an appointed representative on the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, where he also served as vice chair and committee chair.

It was an honor to call Tom a friend and neighbor for many years. My deepest condolences are with his beloved family and many friends. Madam Speaker, please join me in tribute to Thomas Kayser for his remarkable life of service to our nation and our community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. SONIA PÉREZ,
PRESIDENT, UPON HER RETIRE-
MENT AND 43 YEARS OF SERV-
ICE AT AT&T—SOUTHEAST
STATES

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sonia Pérez as she prepares to retire after 43 successful years of service. Throughout her long career, she ultimately was responsible for leading and executing the overall strategic direction of AT&T's corporate initiatives throughout Louisiana and Kentucky. Her teams engage the collective governmental ecosystem at the state, local, and federal level to build technology infrastructure that solves economic challenges faced by urban and rural communities.

Based in Baton Rouge, Sonia has led on strategy, governance and social responsibility issues within the private sector and the nonprofit organizations she has chaired since she moved to Louisiana as the AT&T state president in 2010, and previously in Texas. Outside of her work AT&T Sonia serves as an Independent Director for Hancock Whitney Corporation (NASDAQ: HWC), and on the executive committees of The University of Texas Foundation, the Louisiana Board of Regents, and The National WWII Museum.

Sonia remains engaged with her alma mater, The University of Texas at Austin, and was selected as a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus; having also previously received the Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award. In 2006, she was the first Latina elected president of the Texas Exes, the university's alumni associa-

tion. Among her proudest distinctions is a 1996 presidential appointment by President Bill Clinton to the Advisory Council of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, a binational organization supporting the sustainable development of environmental infrastructure on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border. She was also recognized in 2006 with the El Abre Caminos Award from the Texas Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

She has chaired various boards including the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the state's business roundtable known as the Committee of 100, and the Board of Trustees of my Alma Mater, Xavier University of Louisiana. She also led Governor John Bel Edwards' Economic Development Transition Team and is a member of the governor's Resilient Louisiana Commission. In 2018, Sonia was named to the Merit Selection Panel for the United States District Court Eastern District of Louisiana. She has also served on the national board of the Public Broadcasting Service, PBS.

Prior to being named the first woman president of AT&T Louisiana in 2010, Sonia worked in various capacities in Houston and South Texas, including as a vice president of AT&T Texas, where she was responsible for the company's initiatives throughout the Houston region. During that time, she was named the Houston Hispanic Chamber's Female Senior Executive of the Year, and served on the Houston board of J.P. Morgan Chase, and the executive committees of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Houston Partnership. She was also a member of the Memorial Hermann Hospital System Board of Directors.

Sonia has received numerous awards and distinctions including Top 100 Most Influential Latinas in 2020 by Latino Leaders Magazine, LatinaStyle Magazine 2014 Corporate Executives of the Year, 2013 Inspiración Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, 2015 Weiss Award from the New Orleans Council for Community and Justice, 2015 Role Model from the Young Leadership Council of New Orleans.

On a more personal note, Ms. Perez was someone I truly appreciated working with across New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and her leadership will truly be missed. Congratulations to Sonia as she enjoys the best days of her life in retirement.

DACA

SPEECH OF

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today, to help highlight the incredible contributions that DACA recipients have made to our country and my district.

There are over 800,000 DACA recipients across the country, and over 200,000 of them live in California.

Today, I want to highlight a very special DREAMER in my district.

A young lady named Mayra Garibo from Wilmington, California.

Mayra's mother brought her and her little brother to the U.S. from Mexico when she was just 7 years old.