

lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez 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 Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

#### HONORING STEVE LEONARD

#### HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a great community leader and a dear friend to so many of us here in Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, Steve Leonard.

A native of Greenfield, Steve has been an active member of our community and his leadership will be forever missed. Steve retired from a nearly 40-year career at Eli Lilly a few years ago, and, until his passing, served as the Center Township Trustee and Chairman of the Hancock County Republican Party.

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Steve could tell of a friendship with a truly honorable, decent man whose kindness and generosity will not soon be forgotten. Even throughout his health battle, Steve never failed to put others first and remained a dependable leader who fulfilled his responsibilities with dignity and grace.

Steve's example will serve as a blessing to his family and continue to inspire those of us who had the honor of calling him a friend. Our prayers continue to be with Steve's family; his wife, Janet; sons, Steven and Bryan; and daughter, Kimberly.

It is my pleasure to honor my friend, Steve Leonard.

#### CONGRATULATING BARBARA MORRIS-LENT

#### HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Morris-Lent.

Barbara's late husband, Norman F. Lent, served as a member of this body from 1971 to 1993. Barbara is a past President of the Republican Congressional Spouse Club and has served faithfully as Secretary-Treasurer for over 30 years.

Barbara worked for Verizon until her recent retirement and has served on the board of the Congressional Institute for many years. Barbara has also played a major role in the Auxiliary of the Former Members Association on behalf of the Republican Congressional Spouse Club, for which we are very grateful.

I thank Barbara for all her hard work and dedication to the Club. Her many years of service will fondly be remembered by all who have had the pleasure of working alongside her to help make this institution all it can be.

#### RECOGNIZING BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE NELSON W. WOLFF

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff and his more than half a century of service to the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. Judge Wolff will step down from his position at the end of this year. I would like to congratulate him on a highly distinguished career and wish him the very best in the next chapter of his life.

Judge Wolff was first elected to public office in 1971 when he won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives. He would then be elected to the Texas Senate and the San Antonio City Council before serving as Mayor of San Antonio from 1991 to 1995. He was appointed Bexar County Judge in 2001, a position he would be elected to five times.

Throughout his decades in public service, Judge Wolff has spearheaded efforts to strengthen economic and workforce development, improve public services, invest in public education, and build out critical infrastructure. He helped found our nation's first all-digital public library, established a \$1 million fund to spur growth in the local tech sector, and paved the way for the San Antonio Missions to receive a UNESCO designation.

As Bexar County Judge, Judge Wolff has been a tireless advocate for public safety. He has paired strong investments in law enforcement with commonsense criminal justice reforms aimed at helping those with mental health and drug dependency issues.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I would like to congratulate Judge Wolff once again on a well-deserved retirement and thank him for his decades of service. It is an honor to call him not only a colleague, but a friend. I wish Judge Wolff, his wife Tracy, and his six children all the best in the next chapter of his life.

#### HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN KIMBERLY HEISER 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 Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her 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 Mobil-

ity 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 Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser 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 Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

#### HONORING JUDGE RICHARD BALL UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BENCH

#### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, it is with the utmost appreciation for his distinguished career and life of service that I rise today to honor Judge Richard Ball of East Lansing. After three decades on the bench and nearly 20 years of service in the Michigan National Guard, I extend my congratulations to Judge Ball on his retirement and express my deep gratitude to him for his tireless efforts to preserve and promote justice and equality in Michigan, particularly in the veteran community.

Judge Ball, a proud graduate of Michigan State University and Thomas Cooley Law School, began dedicating himself to the public good shortly after completing his undergraduate degree in 1972, when he joined the Michigan National Guard. During his 19 years with the Guard, he completed law school and began working in private practice, and also rose to the rank of Major, serving as a Staff Judge Advocate General. In 1993, Judge Ball was elected to the East Lansing 54B Circuit Court, where he has served for nearly 30 years.

As a veteran himself, Judge Ball was quick to recognize that military life has many lasting effects on those who serve, and in 2013 he began serving as the presiding judge for the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court. This model specialty court is a program that promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability for veterans by coordinating treatment and combining it with accountability based on the veteran's specific needs. During his time on the bench, this program has provided direct services for nearly 250 local veterans, indirect services for dozens more, and sports a remarkable graduation rate of 82 percent.

In his nearly 50 years of public and community service, Judge Ball has been a beacon of light for so many in the veteran community. His unshakable belief in the principles of fairness, justice, and compassion have served as

an inspiring example to all. I am so grateful for his lifetime of advocacy, leadership, and service, and his passion for helping veterans in need. I extend my best wishes for happiness, health, and many Spartan victories in his retirement. The legacy of his life of service, his exemplary career, and his compassion for the plight of those who serve will live on in the hearts and lives of all those he reached, in the foundation he built with the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court, and here, in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING DR. ALINA ALONSO

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alina Alonso, a distinguished and fearless health care leader. I thank her as she retires as Director of the Florida Health Department of Palm Beach County and wish her great joy on her next journey.

Dr. Alonso has served Palm Beach County for over 33 years, including as its Director of our Health Department for the last 13. Using her training in Bio-Chemical Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction, she handled the first inhalation of anthrax case in recent U.S. history. More recently, Dr. Alonso selflessly guided our community through the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, setting up testing, treatment, and vaccination sites throughout Palm Beach County, working closely with local leaders, and reaching underserved areas.

Since becoming Director of the Health Department in 2009, Dr. Alonso has overseen the operations of one of the largest county health departments in the State of Florida. With over 720 employees, the Palm Beach County Health Department provides a full range of primary and preventative services to seven health centers located throughout Palm Beach County. Epidemiology, Communicable Disease Control, and Emergency Preparedness are a few Public Health services offered by the Health Department, making it a nationally recognized academic organization in a class by itself.

Dr. Alonso proudly combines her Cuban heritage and her experience and training in Mexico and Central America to stay active in patients' rights advocacy, minority health issues, cultural diversity, population health, and health equity. As an immigrant from Cuba, she has stated that being an immigrant was a push to keep reaching higher. Dr. Alonso has won numerous awards and recognitions in her many years of Public Health service. In March 2022, she was named one of USA Today's "Women of the Year."

Dr. Alonso's dedication to health care access and her service to the people of South Florida is truly admirable. I feel blessed to have worked with her and to get to know her beautiful heart and see first-hand her dedication and excellence. I am proud to honor her today, thank her for her service, and wish her the very best for a future filled with great health and happiness.

HONORING MAYOR MARK LANDMAN

**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 Mark Landman of Cotati, California in honor of his retirement and thirteen years as a council member and mayor.

Mr. Landman was born in San Francisco, California. Following his graduation from the College of Marin, where he studied Fire Science, Mr. Landman completed a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic Program at Stanford University. As one of the first ten paramedics in Marin County, Mr. Landman worked in the fire service for decades, serving as Chair of the Marin Paramedic Advisory Committee, Vice President of Novato Professional Firefighters and on the National Fire Protection Association Contract Negotiation Team.

In 2008, Mr. Landman was elected to the Cotati City Council. During his tenure, Mr. Landman led efforts to reduce speeding, keep out-of-town trucks from using local roads and renovate the Cotati Rose Garden. His steadfast support of the Cotati Police Department has significantly enhanced community safety and his commitment to careful spending has led to a balanced budget for more than a decade. As chair of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, he played a key role in expanding Highway 101 and paved the way for countless other projects. Mr. Landman was an important figure in Cotati being the first city in Sonoma County to transition its police fleet to all electric vehicles. Mr. Landman is a three-time Mayor of Cotati, former Local Agency Formation Commissioner and a 2015 Cotati "Citizen of the Year".

In addition to his work as a public servant, Mr. Landman has been a prominent supporter of many nonprofits and local organizations. As Chair of the Russian River Watershed Association, he helped bring safe medicines to the region and remove unused pills from watersheds across Sonoma County. He has also served on the boards of the Cotati Arts Program and Sonoma Clean Power.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mayor Landman for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Cotati. His efforts have made Cotati a safer, greener and more prosperous city. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MARIO HERNANDEZ 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 Senior Airman Mario Hernandez 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 guar-

antee 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 Senior Airman Mario Hernandez 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 Senior Airman Mario Hernandez 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 GILLETTE CHILDREN'S SPECIALTY HEALTHCARE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare of Saint Paul, Minnesota on its 125th anniversary of providing world class, compassionate care for children and their families.

Founders Jessie Haskins and Dr. Arthur Gillette recognized the need for a place where children with disabilities could receive state-of-the-art care made specifically for their needs. In 1897, the Minnesota legislature created what would later become Gillette Children's Hospital, the first institution in the United States to focus exclusively on treating children with disabilities. Today, Gillette is celebrating 125 years of outstanding, groundbreaking treatment of children in our community and from around the world.

Gillette Children's serves an important calling in our state and nation. By focusing on what a child is capable of, rather than the ways they are limited, Gillette Children's makes the difference in how a child will recover and grow after receiving care. In its 125 years of existence, Gillette Children's has improved the lives of countless children and their families from around the world.

Gillette Children's is not just a hospital. It is a special place that fosters a healing environment for its patients and their families. By providing care through adulthood, Gillette Children's creates deep and meaningful bonds between the children, physicians, staff, and volunteers that last a lifetime. This unique approach to treatment is one of the many reasons why Gillette Children's stands out as an